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Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors, Inc.

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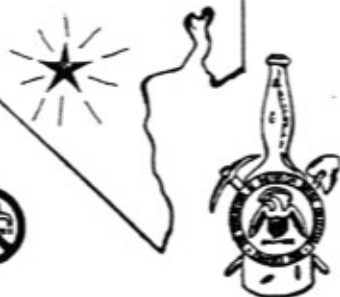
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# Ski Country

Welcome an old friend. The name Ski Country is one which collectors have known now for approximately thirty years. That's well over a generation, so we can say that an entire generation of collectors have enjoyed the exacting detail and painstaking workmanship that has gone into these bottles.

In the mini department there were (again, an approximation) 175 bottles issued through Foss Drug in Colorado. Now the ownership lies with Frank and Jacque Willburn of Amarillo, Texas.

Not only are they interested in continuing to produce Ski Country decanters but they want to make contact with all the collectors who have cherished the bottles down through the last three decades. To that end they are also issuing a newsletter from the Ski Country Club and have gone on the internet. You can easily find them at [www.skicountrydecanter.com](http://www.skicountrydecanter.com)

You'll find an ad elsewhere in this issue showing the first of their four decanters. Those who attended the MMBC show in St. Louis praised the mock up of **Brown's Service Station** and it's certain to be a hit.



On our adjacent page we have the Ski Country Guide which lists the bottles in the order in which they were issued. If you're wondering about that "approximately 175" it's because there were specials which weren't generally issued.

Again, welcome an old friend. Let's hope that Ski Country will once more present to us beautifully done, imaginative decanters.

# Let's Talk

So how's the summer treating you? Hopefully with lots of new bottles. We got treated very nicely indeed within the pages of the new Whisky Magazine from the U.K.

In an article about collecting miniature bottles, Brian Hennigan had this to say: When it comes to web sites for miniatures, there is one which tops them all: The Miniature Bottle Collector Online. Serving as a kind of meeting place for the world of mini collectors, it's possible to trade, chat, butt into someone else's on-line discussion on the merits of cork closures on sub-100ml castings...Then you can scan the postings, the daily updated messages from collectors, each one the exposed skin of someone's crusade for completion." Nice to be able to toot one's own horn a bit.

With all that in mind I'll list a few more web sites which you might find intriguing.

[klminidelfthouses.com](http://klminidelfthouses.com) will get you to the KLM delft houses (surprise)

[iVodka.com](http://iVodka.com) will show you just about every vodka bottle you'd want to see

[rum.cz/](http://rum.cz/) will get you to a world of rum labels.

When you go to any of these sites there will be links for you to find literally hundreds of other sights. Have a cushioned seat and sharp eyes. You'll need them.

Until next time...keep thinking small.

— DMS —

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No. 166 2001

# THE MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

Editor / Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

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## Our Cover

The two bottles on the cover this time are prime examples of specialty glass bottles from Mexico. These are two of the new fancy tequila bottles which have been appearing now for well over a year. The Los Azulejos is in cobalt blue glass and features the agave cactus embossed on the stopper. Don Tacho is equally interesting and highly embossed. Look for more of these new ones inside.

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Dear Hamm's Collector,

This is the newest pair of salt & pepper shakers, Ted the Carver, to celebrate our favorite Hamm's character. Naturally though it will be known as the Totem Pole Bear. If you saw this at the February show in Minnesota you know how cute it is. If you're seeing it for the first time, we're giving you two views of the same set. This set is now available, earlier than we thought. Only 800 sets were produced thus making this the smallest quantity of our trio: canoe, teepee and totem pole.

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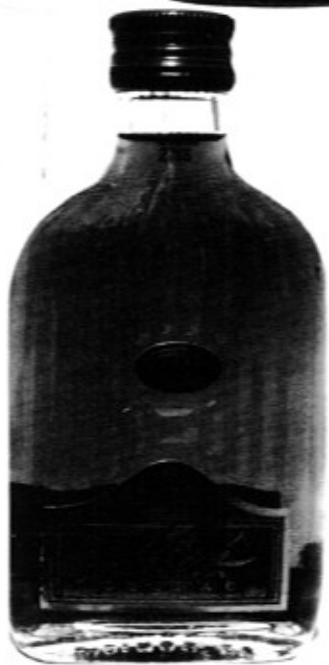
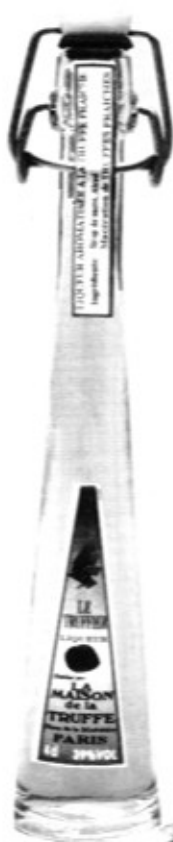
We certainly have quite a group for you this time...with nary a PET in sight. Approximately half the bottle are found somewhere in the U.S. while the others may be found if you do some traveling.

Let's look at the ones which will take a bit of effort to find. The very nice Brandy selection from Tesco you won't find at all; however, you should be able to find a variation of this set later this year. Tesco is one of the stores in the U.K. which only feature minis around Christmas. Previously we've shown some of the Yule time Marks and Spencer bottles. This set has a Cognac, X.O. Brandy, Calvados, and V.S.O.P. Armagnac. For about \$15 or £10 you can't beat it!

Over (or under) the channel you go to Paris. There you will find the









tall La Truffier Liqueur which may be bought at the Maison de la Truffe on Place de la Madeleine. This is Truffle Liqueur. In all probability this is the only place in the world to find this liqueur. A short walk from there is the famous Maxim's restaurant. Next to it there is a gourmet shop and there you'll find Maxim's X.O. Cognac in a lovely bottle. Previously this bottle has been shown but not with the X.O. contents.

Back across the Atlantic to Ontario, Canada. If you travel to Niagara-on-the-Lake, you'll go by the Inniskillin Winery. They

possibly produce the most famous and tasty (and expensive) Ice Wine. This is from the 1968 vintage.

Now the remainder of the bottles are all for sale in the U.S. The tall Pallini Limoncello (hmm, is this stuff delicious) and Alize flask were both found in Sarasota, Florida. The Pallini is more interesting due to both its height and frosted glass.

In New York you'll find both the Heering Liqueur which used to be known as Cherry Heering and the St. Remy Fontainbleau Liqueur. The former is from Denmark while the latter is a Brandy Liqueur from



France.

The rest were all sold in various parts of California. From up north came the boxed pair of 1989 Signatory Scotches: Mortlach and Benrines. Both were bottled August 4, 2000 and arrived here early this year. \$19.95 most places for the pair.

Another French set of liqueurs in a nice wooden case was found in So. California along with the Fris Lime Vodka. I've seen several lemon vodkas, but this is the first lime. The three liqueurs in the set are chestnut, berry, and pear.

So there you have. Hopefully, something for everyone. —DMS—



# A PASSIONATE COLLECTOR

by Jennifer Slawson

Finally, the warmest season is approaching. Breezes are growing balmier, and flowers are in full bloom. As summer looms, our thoughts turn to treasured summer pastimes; baseball, barbecues...and beer!

Unlike the rest of us, Scott Spaid doesn't have to wait for summer. He has beer on the brain all year long. That's because he is a collector of miniature beer bottles, known in collecting circles as "minis".

According to Scott, (modern) breweries began producing miniature replicas of their beer bottles in 1933. Often they were produced as salt and pepper sets. "They were promotional items given away on brewery tours as souvenirs or they could be found in Five & Dime stores. They never had beer in them," he explained.

Twenty-two years ago, when Scott was twelve, his father introduced him to the joy of collecting. As he says, "My dad collected, and still collects, miniature liquor bottles. He got me started on mini-beer bottle collecting as a way for us to bond." It seems to have worked. Father and son, who live half a country

apart, have plans to reunite at a bottle show in St. Louis later this month. According to Scott, his father is "really well-known in mini-bottle circles. He publishes a magazine called *Miniature Bottle Collector* that has been around over 25 years. He got me hooked. I'm a nut for these bottles now."

"I have over 400 individual bottles. I don't collect the sets...if you find them in a set, it's like striking gold. The really rare ones go for between two and three hundred dollars. You can pick up the common ones for about \$10 to \$25. Some are worth about \$75. The most I've paid is \$300. That was for Southern Beer. The *Southern Brewery* in Norfolk, VA, closed down in 1942. That bottle is in perfect condition, which is really rare. The ones that came out of the 1930's have decal labels, and they can get nicked really easily. You know how they say, "They don't make 'em like that anymore?" Well, they don't. Back then, the breweries put as much detail into the miniatures as they did their full size bottles. The quality dove as the years went on," he said.

Scott's most cherished, and he

believes, most valuable mini is what he calls, "...a freak bottle. It's *Congress Beer* out of Washington DC. They put the label on green glass, and it's never been seen on green glass before. It's a prototype or something. It's probably one of a kind. I have never heard of it in any of the books and price guides that I've seen."

According to Scott, the freak bottles were a result of breweries accommodating collectors. "There were people who collected at the time who would write the brewery and say that they loved their beer. The brewery would mail free minis, but it wasn't always the real one. They would mail freak versions. They might be different sizes or different colors of glass. Now, collectors just go ape if they see a major variation like that. I have three or four different bottles that are like that, that I'll never ever trade."

Scott has traded with another collector only once. "I buy collections and turn around some of the extras. I'm not a dealer, but I'll sell to fuel my bottle bug. But, I never thought I would trade out of my personal collection. I did it one time and that was because the guy offered me something that I thought was harder to find. I traded a *Trommers Ale* for a *White Label* on green glass. Apparently there are only four of five of the *Trommers*."

Scott has not been able to replace the *White Label*, but he claims he is not concerned. As he says, "I've got the rest of my life for this. I haven't gone out of my way to find it." Still, when he sets his heart on a particular mini, Scott is not content to sit and wait. "If it's something that I really, really want, I'll be a pit-bull about it. I would pay top dollar."

Today, Scott has a short list of bottles that could transform him into a frothing canine. *Manhattan Beer* tops the list. It was produced in Chicago in a brewery owned by Al Capone. Scott has never been able to get his hands on the *Manhattan* mini, and that has generated some friendly razzing among his collector friends. As Scott says, "I know people who have it, and they make fun of me." Scott is also on the lookout for *Old Glory*, *Citizens*, *Old Union*, *Royal Pilsen*, and *Manru* minis.

Financially, Scott supports his collecting habit through his "real job" as president and CEO of *Mediapulse Internet Solutions, Inc.*, a high-end Internet development company. In other ways, he supports his hobby through membership in the American Breweriana Association and through reading up on price guides such as *Miniature Beer Bottles and Go-withs*. He also networks at trade shows and through his web page, [www.bottlecollecting.com/spaid](http://www.bottlecollecting.com/spaid).

So, as summer approaches, and we take to our hammocks, let's raise a bottle to Scott Spaid. A mini-bottle, of course!

(This article originally appeared in the June 2000 issue of *Antiques and Collecting*.)

# SCOTCH

David Maund

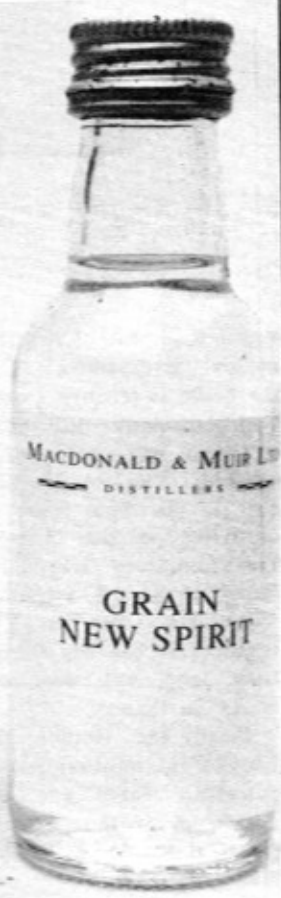


First off, it was delightful to see so many old friends at the show in St. Louis. This is a great gathering place for all of us. I even picked up quite a few bottles for my own collection this year.

To start though, I've a special set to show you. This came out a little while back but I never did the pictures until now. I'm speaking of the MacDonal & Muir set of eight

bottles and two jars. This is a true sampling set as it has tasters of eight different styles of whiskies plus the peat and malted barley that go into them. I'm not going to list each of the pieces in the set as you can easily do that yourself just by looking at the pics.

Other than this distiller's set, I have five different ones for you. The one year old 1996 Spirit (can't



call it whisky as it's not old enough) is from the Lochranza, Isle of Arran Distillery. This is the red label if you're keeping up the bottles from this new distillery which just this year will release its first major single malt. Just wait a few months.

Ubique is a newer bottle from Gordon & Macphail of Elgin. This blend celebrates the motto of The



Royal Regiment of Artillery. Ubique means "Everywhere". I just think the bottle is terribly ubiquitous!

I particularly like the last three bottles, but all for different reasons. The MacTarnahan is a new 15 yo single malt just coming onto the market in both regular and miniature sizes. The Chivas Regal is an 18 yo and a much fancier label than its 12 yo brother blend. This one has German on the back label but was found by a friend in France.

Finally The Gordon Highlanders Blend is another spectacularly colorful label and I'm always amenable to those. This is one I found at the show. Haven't seen it here yet.

Hope you especially enjoyed the sampling set. I think it's superb!







# MELO'S MINIS

by MIKE OLSON



In this article we'll look at some bottles with boxes, plus a couple of nice old brands. It is always nice to find an old whiskey in a box, namely because the bottle is usually in great condition. Also, the boxes are nice collectibles themselves. Anyway, bottle number one is Hiram Walker's **Black Hawk Whiskey A Blend** in a small square bottle with a gold foil label. It is 90 proof and was Bottled Spring 1934. I have two other variations of this bottle from the same time period. The other Black Hawk is in the familiar brown embossed bottle Hiram Walker used during the 1930's. I have shown the back of it because it has an interesting Iowa tax stamp.

Bottle number three is **G & B Supreme Whiskey A Blend**. It is one of the many nice bottles produced by Gallagher & Burton,

Inc. of Philadelphia. The last two bottles are **Rewco Straight Rye Whiskey** distilled by The American Medicinal Spirits Company of Baltimore, MD. The labels look the same, but are actually quite different on closer inspection. Both are 93 proof, were Distilled Spring 1933 and Bottled Spring 1934. The last bottle has a May 10, 1934 Maryland tax stamp and is probably the older of the two.

Finally, I remember seeing a picture of a Black Hawk in a clear flat bottle in an old newsletter, but I had never seen the brown, embossed this bottle until this year when two of them appeared weeks apart. I've had this happen a number of times over the years...is this weird or what??

Until next time...MELO...

CONTENTS

1/10 OF A PINT



93 PROOF



# CERAMICS from SOUTH of the BORDER



At the last MMBC bottle show in St. Louis this April, these four ceramics were available...if you weren't too slow in getting to the table.

The tall column is from Ecuador and is called The Spirit of Ecuador. Each side of the column has a label with all the information in Spanish, French, German, and English. It may be a tourist product, but now I have a nice ceramic from

Ecuador in my collection.

The other three pieces are all from Peru. They all contain Macchu Pichu Pisco. This is approximately the same as having three ceramics in Denver which call themselves Rocky Mountain Brandy. Again tourist pieces but very nice colorfully done bottles which add a bit of character to any collection.



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# FROM JAPAN

by **TAIZO SHIRATSUCHI**

This time I would like to present to you some Japanese whisky miniatures which appeared during the period from the second half of 2000 to the first half of 2001.

The first is **NIKKA YOICHI 20yo**. In 2000 Osaka Miniature Bottle Club celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and launched a commemorative miniature from The Nikka Whisky Distilling Co, Yoichi Single Malt 20yo. The big bottle is available only on their internet shop and is one of the Nikka Single Malt Yoichi range. As you know, the others - 10yo, 12yo, and 15yo miniatures - were available only as a set of samples. It is 11cm tall and has 50ml contents at 52% alcohol.

The **NIKKA MALT CLUB** was issued in April 1995 and the 50ml pet bottle with a poor label became available as a tasting sample. It has renewed to **NEW MALT CLUB** in Oct. 1977 and this time a true miniature was found hanging on the big bottle. It is 9cm tall in roundish clear glass with two dimples on each side. The label is silver with green letters while the contents are 50ml at 40% alcohol.

The next three are new Pure Malt range from Nikka Whisky, **TAKETSURU Pure Malt 12yo, 17yo, and 21yo**. Needless to say, Taketsuru is the name of the founder of Nikka who is addressed







as "The Father of Japanese Whisky". The 12yo was released in Nov. 2000 as a fancy miniature, but only as a trading sample. It is 10cm tall and has 50ml contents at 40% alcohol. The release of the 17yo and 21yo was in March 2001 and the miniatures were only samples the same as 12yo. They are 43% alcohol and the 21yo is very, very hard to get.

The last ones are SUNTORY HIBIKI label variations. Both no age (17yo) and 21yo lost the Japanese worth which means whisky from the label and "masterful blend" has been changed to "harmonious blend".

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





## TREASURES OF THE PAST

by  
BUTCH JONES



The scotches featured this time are not rare but are not easily found on the open market. The first is Glen Guard. This blended scotch is a clear square bottle. As you can see, the label has a Scottish Guard in the center. Great Scott Whisky is number two. This is an Italian import. The third is Glenordie which is a nice 12yo from John Dewar.

Next is Golden Lion Scotch Whisky. The label is black with a golden lion in the center. Number five is Glen Mavis which was also produced for Italy. The last bottle is Glen Saunders which is a vatted malt and is most often found in Italy too.

So there are six quite different ones from you. 'Til next time.

--B.J.--

# SCOTSMEN II

by Tony Natelli



Fifteen more "Scotsmen" for you this article. **Jock McClure** and **Sandy Fraser** are top-notch. Sandy's label features a colorful scene that includes a liquor shop. The third bottle, **Charlie Stuart**, also came in a miniature jug.

**Highland Chief** is an almost never seen, early 1930's Scotch-type Whisky while **Auld Scottie** is much newer and does show up now and then. **McLennon's** was bottled in Argentina, and like **Auld Scottie**, sold in the 1950's. When the laws changed regarding labeling, a **McClennan's** and a **McClennan** (no "s") were produced, each with slightly different labels, all containing Argentine Whisky.

Three different **Hielanman** (pronounced "Hee Lan Man") are

next. Bottles two and three have a "The" in the title and #3 contains 8yo Scotch. The first is the oldest and most rare.

The 1950's **Northern Scot** is a grand old miniature and **King Alfred** is rather rare having been sold only in New Zealand about 15 or more years ago. Our last four, **Piob Mhor**, **Roderick Dhu** (no relation to the 1930's versions), **The Spirit of MacDonald's** and **Clansman** sport richly colored labels. The best news is that they are all fairly current and can be found today in parts of Great Britain. Of the fifteen, only **Highland Chief** was sold in the U.S.A. and strangely enough, it's perhaps the best of a fine lot. — T.N.--





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