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THE MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

Editor / Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

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Our Cover:

You will learn more about this bottle from looking at the ad on the adjacent page, than almost anything I could tell you. It's available in South Africa in both large and small size. Fortunately it is packaged in this extremely nice tin. You liquor tin collectors have something else to look for now. You can buy this on the internet if you promise you're 18!

Let's Talk

Well, what do you think? Or better yet, how do you like it? Naturally this is being written before even we can see the final result, but we're pretty happy with what we can see so far.

Yes, we're going to be a quarterly. After a full twenty-eight years, it's time for another change. Originally we were a much larger magazine and we went for five full years that way. At that time bottle collecting was surging and there were people everywhere checking out their local liquor stores for all the best in large bottles and sometimes even our favorite minis. And, at that time there weren't many states where you could buy minis. Today there aren't many states where you can't buy minis.

Since our sister publication, *Pictorial Bottle Review*, was a smaller publication (what used to be called the Reader's Digest size), we decided to go that route. The changes today have been brought about because I wanted to have the luxury of doing things a bit differently. If an article called for several pages, now there is no problem. There are many historical collecting articles which should be done and now we have the space.

Another reason for the change was secondary but still important. We have not made a change in the subscription rate now for over six years. As you know, postal rate increases during these past few years have been substantial. And looking ahead, we're due to get socked again this year. For those of you who don't know, international airmail went up twice last year and is now 20-25% higher depending on the country you mail to.

So the decision was not to just go quarterly but to increase the size of the magazine by fifty percent. Each issue from now on will have a good many more articles and information. It's a win-win situation for everyone..... except the post office.

Turning now to a completely different subject, let's look at the state of bottle collectors and collecting. One word will epitomize what's going on today with collectors. That word is "internet". Over 75% of all our new subscribers come from finding our site on the internet. You could advertise in collector publications until you were blue in the face and only reach a handful of interested people. However, with the internet, the collectors find us.

AND they find bottles. If it isn't a site put up by a company, a club or a collector, then it's definitely eBay. At any one time you'll find hundreds of bottles listed. Some of them are great, some mediocre. The point is that people are seeing what's out there and available. In short, they get educated.

Many years ago I asked a friend and collector, why she didn't subscribe to the magazine. She replied, "I'd rather take that six dollars (see, it was a long time ago) and spend it on bottles." An interesting, but ridiculous view. Any publication dedicated to any hobby will bring knowledge to the collector...and knowledge saves you money. I can actually remember watching this woman buy a good many bottles for two to three times what they would have cost her from individuals who had advertised in the magazine. Let's just say her six dollars for the subscription would have saved her

Contd. on p. 40

Down through the years, people have collected figural steins. Today many of these are worth hundreds of dollars or more. Since we know that today's collectibles are tomorrow's heirlooms, these two new figural beer steins are bound to make quite a splash.

The Foster's Kangaroo and Miller's Girl in the Moon are magnificent three dimensional creations from Germany. Each limited edition is available now for only \$149.95 plus \$10 shipping and handling. You save 25% off the nationally advertised retail price. Don't delay as these will disappear quickly. Send today for either or both of these limited, numbered editions.



Brisco

Post Office Box 2161
Palos Verdes, CA 90274



Cruz. There are a number of other bottles including rums, vodka and tequila which are in their portfolio.

My personal favorite for new label is the next bottle. Yes, it's a mediocre little plastic, but it has the most non-P.C. label seen in a long time. The bottle is T. J. Toad Tropical Crème Liqueur & Tequila. The label depicts a bug-eyed toad with a long thin moustache. Since it's only 12.5% liquor, it must make up in sweetness what it lacks in alcohol.

So while we're on the subject of tequila, let's look at a really excellent one. Since it's a light, clear bottle, the picture hasn't turned out too well. This is the

GUINNESS



Yes, this is Big Chief Toucan. No, it's not a bottle but a go-with or go-along as some call them. Most of you are familiar with the mini bottles which have been produced of Guinness; however, few collectors in the U.S. know of the many, many worldwide collectors of all things Guinness.

This piece was produced in 2001 by Royal Doulton for the

Millennium Co. of Great Britain. This was a limited edition of 2,000 pieces all of which have now found their way into collectors' hands.

In future issues we'll show you more of the collectable Guinness items as well as some of the fakes which have been mass produced. Some are quite good while others are almost laughable.



to be a most familiar shape and label type. However, it is with our last bottle that we again find notable interest. The Mahon Xoriguer Gin is a pebbled, one-handed jug. The label is very nicely done but this one comes from the Spanish island of Menorca. A British island for many years, it has now been Spanish for the last two hundred years. This is a must for gin collectors.

We'll look at other interesting bottles from Spain in the near future.

A Visit To **Boozeville**



The girls in the hen house had better watch out because the boys are back in town. Mr. Cocktail is seen here in his various guises and sizes. Grand-dad, father, and the boys are all strutting their stuff this time.

All three variations of the Shafer & Vater giveaway bottles are here

for you. The two larger sizes are in brown while the smaller one on the left is in multicolor and the other is in blue.

There may indeed be one other size variation but currently it hasn't been catalogued. If you know of any other variations of this fellow, please let us know.



prominently on the label. This comes in what is called Blue and Black Spirits and the bottle is sealed with a "wax" closure. Sounds like another way to say liqueur to me. These were found in New York.

Now did I say "colorful" above? Well, Gecko is topped by TUKYS, a

MACALLAN



Here are three miniature Macallan scotches which won't be found in too many collections, particularly out of the U.K.

The 1948 was available only if you bought the large bottle and there were only 366 of those produced. There was one for each day of the year 2000 and each large bottle had a specific day of that year on the label. The miniature did not. None of these were sold in the U.S.

The 1951 and 1961 were both offered for sale in very, very limited quantities in the fall of last year. There is a large bottle

available of each of these also but you did not have to buy it to acquire the miniature. There are fewer 1961 bottles available, but naturally the 1951 is more expensive. In the U.K. it sells for the equivalent of \$150.

Originally a few of both the large and miniature versions were to be made available in the U.S. A few of the large bottles will make it here this spring; however, the miniature may not because they may all have been sold in the U.K. For a scotch collector, these are (to quote the old brand name) the "ne plus ultra".

JIM CRAWFORD

Frequent flier: But 6,200 bottles? That would take a lot of flights.

"I also bought a lot of bottles in Florida," he says. "Back in the mid-60's, only 12-13 states sold miniature liquor bottles."

Thrill of the hunt: "Nowadays they are much easier to find," he says. Indiana sells miniatures, so does Kentucky. I also purchase a lot at shows and conventions. The main group is called the Midwest Miniature Bottle Collectors. They have a convention in St. Louis every year, and people come in from all over the world."

Last call: You name the kind of liquor and I have it in miniature," he claims. His collection includes: brandy, bourbon, cognac, liqueurs, gin, vodka, rum, rye whiskey, Canadian whiskey, Irish Whiskey, Scotch whisky and straight whiskey. He also has miniature beer bottles and figurine bottles.

"But that's not all," Mr. Crawford continues, "I also have stoneware jugs dating back to the late 1800's."

Just a thimbleful: What

exactly is a miniature liquor bottle?

"There is no standard height," he says. "But most run from 2 to 6 inches. American miniatures usually contain from 2 ounces to 1/10th of a pint or 50 milliliters."

Mr. Crawford's collection includes bottles from 191 countries.

Ha, ha! "Plus Cincinnati," he quips. "But, I don't count that as a country." That one is a bottle of Eagle Whiskey from National Distilleries.

Regardless, he is considering applying for inclusion in the *Guinness Book of World Records* in the category of miniature liquor bottles from the largest number of countries.

One of the most surprising things about Mr. Crawford's collection is that the seals are intact on all but 10-20 bottles.

"Believe it or not," he says with a grin, "We don't drink all that much."

For more information on miniature liquor bottles check out www.miniaturebottles.com



86proof, 4 years old, has a yellow label with gold and red and has a 1965 Alabama tax stamp. The last of this group is **Pebble-Ford** Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey. It is BIB 1945-1949 and has a yellow label with red and black.

The first Canadian is an old **Seagram's** Canadian Whisky. I would guess this bottle is from the early to mid 1920's. Next is the **Corby's** Special Selected Canadian Whisky. This bottle has an early 1930's U.S. revenue strip, but I believe the bottle is from the late 1920's.

The **Old Dixie** American Bourbon Whiskey is one of the many fine bottles produced by

United Distillers of Vancouver, B.C. It is BIB 1928 (Canada dates its whisky from when it was distilled), has a very nice multi-colored label and has a 1934 Louisiana tax stamp, along with a New Orleans city stamp. This bottle has been around, but it is very hard to find in near mint condition. The last of these is **Quebec Royal** Canadian Whiskey A Blend. It is 86.8 proof and has a mid-1960's Alabama tax stamp.

Finally, it seems that a lot of rare bottles came from the state of Alabama. I have heard stories on why this happened, but would be interested in hearing from anyone who has the facts.

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

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AmourPELICAN
PÉLICAN

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FISH
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MentheWOODPECKER
PIC

MINIATURES

Parfait
AmourPEWIT
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PIGEON

MINIATURES

Cherry
BolsWATERBIRD
FOULQUE

Apricot Bols

RHINOCEROS
RHINOCÉROSCreme de
CacaoTOUCAN
TOUCAN

birds being completely left out. These were the woodpecker, the pewit, and the pigeon.

variations from different decades are highly collectable and widely sought.

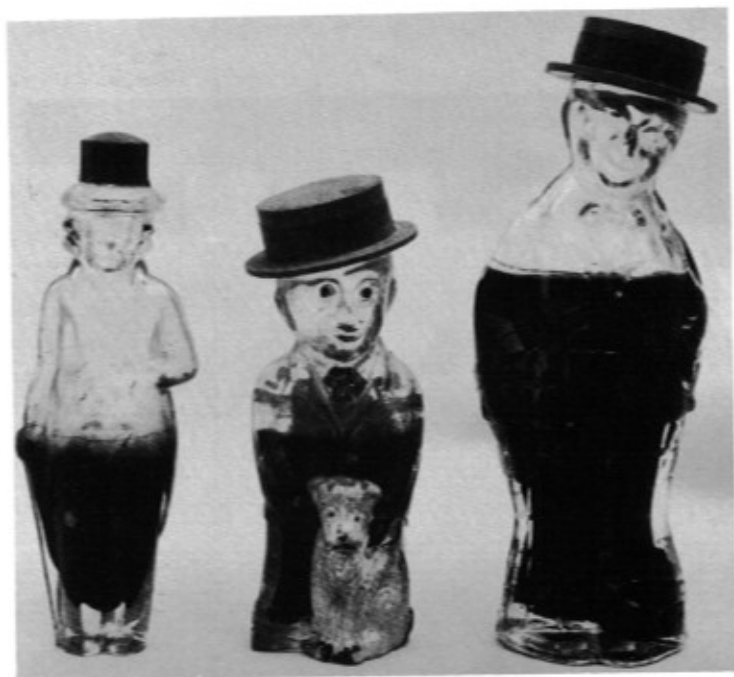


in the bottle. This one comes from the Czech Republic.

Now we'll go to all the bottles which are available here in the United States. We'll begin with the one and only plastic bottle, **Blue Ice**. For plastic it's extremely well done and the reverse side is made to resemble an ice block or cube. The vodka is made from American potatoes.

The remainder of the six bottles come from five different countries in all. **Svedka** comes from all places, Sweden. This was found on the east coast and is a rather blah bottle when compared to the others. In the same part of the

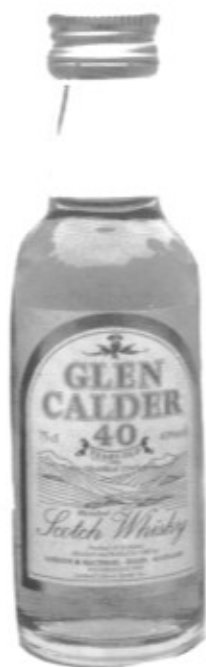
The ENTERTAINERS



The majority of us weren't around in the 1930's, but that surely doesn't keep us from appreciating the bottles that come from that era. Depression times were definitely hard, but one thing which kept people smiling were the entertainers in the movies, radio and theater. Three of them were immortalized in any number of ways, but for us it was these three molded-glass bottles which are the most important.

It is extremely difficult to photograph molded glass bottles at

times. Just accept that the three you're looking at represent Charlie Chaplin, Maurice Chevalier, and W. C. Fields. The Chevalier bottle was issued by the French company Garnier that we know from so many bottles from the 1930's and 1970's. The other two were issued in Mexico by Destiladora. Many collectors of that time naturally brought the bottles back with them after a trip "south of the border". All in all they make quite a talented trio.



Christmas releases previously and this group continues on with the tradition of highlighting different malts, both single and blended. Sometime later this year I'll have the 2001 set to show you.

For those of you who like your whisky aged, the **Glen Calder** is for you. This one is a 40 year old blended scotch from Gordon & Macphail way up in Elgin. The **Black Bottle** is a name with



TREASURES OF THE PAST

by
BUTCH JONES



Two giveaways and a Bal Tabarin are featured this time. The first is a Japanese Giveaway flask. This flask is a little smaller than the usual ones. The second bottle is a giveaway from Germany. It is a vase with black paint and a dancing Grecian or Roman girl attached. She has on a green gown with striped stockings.

The last figural is by Bal Tabarin.

The Bal Tabarin bottles were produced pre-1952 and were made in "Occupied Japan". This is just one of many produced by Bal Tabarin; however, there are others by them that are quite similar to this and would probably constitute a set. As you can see, this is the tennis player.

'Til next time. --BJ.--





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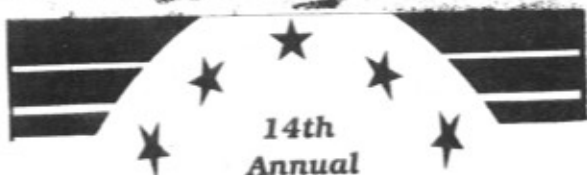
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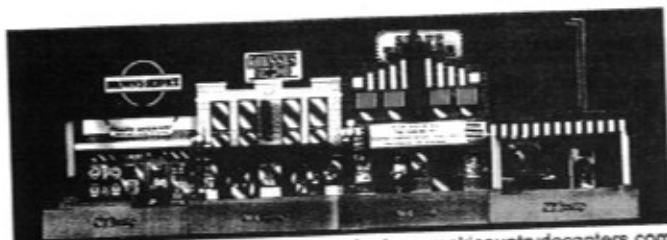
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WANTED: MBC Magazines #'s Vol1#2 and Vol 2 #1 & 2. Have for sale or trade MBC Magazine #'s Vol 1 #3, Vol 2 #3-4-5, Vol 3 #6, Vol 4 #2-3-6, Vol 5 #1,2,6, Vol 12 #1. Jim Scarborough, Tampa, FL(813)238-2112 email homoheights@yahoo.com

FOR SALE: More have been added to this list to start off 2002. How about a set of five Zone Vodkas for only \$12? The Russian Moroz Vodka bottle inside the wooden doll for only \$10? A Joe Louis Whiskey for only 99 cents...just checking to see if you were paying attention. Send a SASE for the new list to David M. Spaid, P. O. Box 2161, Palos Verdes, CA 90274 or on the net at david@spaid.org

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WANTED: Pre-prohibition mini bottles. Send list of what you have with price to Jerry Maushard, 1130 N. E. Glen Oak, Peoria, IL 61603 or fax (309) 688-4137.

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.

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

WANTED (TRADE or BUY): I am looking for any miniature liquor bottles made or bottled in the AZERBIJAN, BRITISH HONDURAS, CORSICA, CRETE, CEYLON, IRAQ, or SURINAM. I will pay top dollar, or trade multiple minis for mini bottles from any of these countries. I have over 150 countries available for trade. Contact Jim Crawford at (513) 467-9113, or e-mail me at shooter@fuse.net

WANTED: Figurals - The Northwest Miniature Bottle Club is seeking figurals for our monthly raffle. We are not seeking the esoteric or exotic. If you have some figurals to sell, please contact Jack Kelly, 2703 39th Street, Gig Harbor, WA 98335 or call (253) 851-3225 or e-mail taster@harbornet.com

FOR SALE: I have 40 mini Ski Country bottles for sale. Please send a SASE for the list of bottles and prices. Jim Fennely, 520 54th Street, Sacramento, CA 95819

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