

THE

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**MINIATURE
BOTTLE
COLLECTOR**



Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors, Inc.

Bottles & Extras

% J. Carl Sturm, 88 Sweetbriar Branch, Longwood, FL 32750-2783
(407) 332-7689

A Monthly Magazine for Collectors of OLD BOTTLES AND RELATED ANTIQUES

featuring:

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Glimpses of Private Collections
Show Information and Reports
Digging news
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Hospitality Suite Open After The Show

Sunday, April 27, 2003

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Check out the MMBC Website at: <http://miniaturebottles.com>

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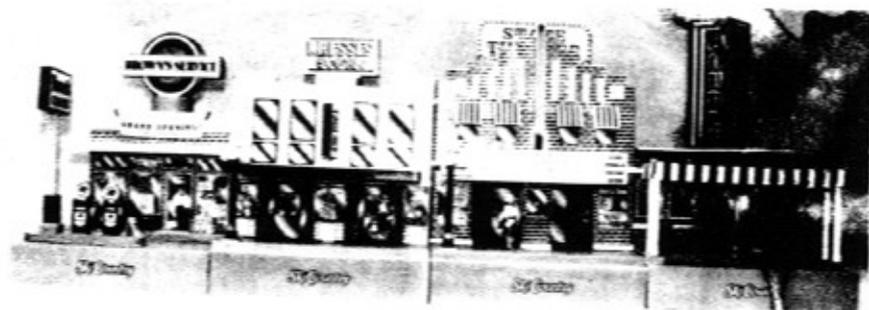
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THE MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

Editor / Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

WHAT'S NEW	6
Our usual mélange of interesting bottles.	
A VISIT TO BOOZEVILLE	9
No, it's not the same as the cover.	
IRISH WHISKIES	10
A continuation of the series	
SETS	13
A nice little group from Scott Reinhart.	
TREASURES OF THE PAST	14
More good ones from Butch.	
ABSINTHE	15
Two more this time (and more next time).	
VODKA	16
From all over the globe, they just keep coming.	
TEQUILA	20
Definitely some good ones here.	
RUMS	22
A look at some from the 1930's.	
SILVER GINS	24
A new way of collecting...by color.	
FROM GREECE	26
Why does only ouzo get exported?	
SKI COUNTRY	29
Two new excellent ceramics.	
COGNACS	30
More excellently done glass bottles from France.	
PISCO	33
No, this is not more Inca Piscos.	
SCOTCH	34
A mixture of both glass and ceramic this time.	
MELO'S MINIS	37
Mike has bottles so good they'll drive you to drink.	

Our Cover:

The cover this time has two of the more fascinating Shafer-Vater bottles. A third may then be found on page 9. These three bottles are very seldom seen. One may appear at shows or on-line auctions, but this is probably the first time all three have been featured together.

FROM THE EDITOR:

Well, not too many complaints from the last issue. We're making headway on the pictures and hopefully this issue will have far fewer bottles with darkened labels. I'm keeping my fingers crossed.

Last time I mentioned the "upcoming" Lilliputian Show in Reno. Well, that has come and gone and it was a very good show. There were more dealers than the club has had for some time and all those great collectors from the Northwest Club came down so attendance was better than it has been for some time. If things work out, the club is planning another show, but probably in 2004 and not next year.

Now we'll just have to wait a few months for the MMBC Show in St. Louis. Their ad is elsewhere in the magazine and it's never too early to start making plans. I know of several collectors who already have booked their hotel rooms. Don't miss out!!

Something else I mentioned last time was the amount of interesting web sites for collectors which are out there. Naturally we like it when you start with our

website, which is

www.bottlecollecting.com

but then you may continue on and we have a list here that will keep you going for hours on end.

I have to give a good plug to the new site by George Lisenko. Not only does George show hundreds of his vodkas, but he also has pictures of a great many collectors.

www.justminivodkas.com

Here now are some other great sites. Just don't forget to fill in the www. And .com at the end:

whisky-world

liqueurmuseum

breweriana

bottlecollecting.com/spaid/

iVodka

nwa.com/services/shop/klm

Each time we'll try to add more sites for you. If you're wondering about these, the names in most cases tell you just about all you need to know. Whisky World is an auction site while the Liqueur Museum is an Italian site dedicated to the different liqueurs in the world. And if you go to KLM, you'll see all 83 delft houses.

Happy Holidays and keep thinking small. **DMS**

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WHAT'S NEW



Only nine bottles for you this time...but we do have a tad of controversy. Of course it concerns one of the duller bottles of this year. A few months ago Das Komet flew onto the shelves. A plastic liqueur...whee, just what everyone was looking for.

It may not have taken off in sales so a new gimmick was needed. Currently Das Komet is being offered not as a liqueur (which its label says it is), but as a vanilla flavored vodka. What's selling well these days? You got

it...flavored vodkas. So where do we put Das Komet?

In that "oh-wow-two-more-plastic-bottles" category, we have 99 Apples which weighs in at 99 proof. If you don't want to drink it, use it as a sticky cleaning fluid. Mojito Club is only marginally better. At least it's an attempt to bottle a refreshing Cuban cocktail.

One new piece that needs neither excuses nor disclaimers is the Grey Goose Citron. Not only is it a great



bottle, it's a great vodka and proves it by winning prizes all the time. A nice addition to the other two Grey Goose bottles.

From vodka to scotch with the 1988 Knockando. Another class offering which comes in its own tube, this one is not too easily found. You'll have to work at it.

Previously we've had El Dorado rum but this is the 15 year old version. This is a very nice replica bottle of the larger size which contains a truly delicious



rum from Guyana. Only problem with this one is the hefty price tag of about \$8+. The "previously shown" also applies to the Inniskillin Ice Wine. We've pictured at least two others in the past but this is the 1999 vintage from this Ontario Winery. If you get to Niagara Falls, then you must visit this winery which is only a few miles away.

Finally we come to our two cognacs. One is sold here while the other has been seen only in Spain. Because of the type of label it is you can't read the

taller bottle. This is E & J cognac in a lovely glass decanter-type bottle. Now of course you know that E & J stands for Ernest and Julio Gallo so you're right in picking this one as being found here in the U.S. It's this strange Hennessy which hasn't made an appearance previously. It too is an elegant glass work.

Back next time with a bunch of new ones including the UV vodkas and the new Hart Single Cask Scotches.

A Visit To **Boozeville**



If you liked the two bottles on the front cover, you'll surely enjoy their taller counterpart. The most interesting aspect though is that the faces on the bottles on the cover are not the same as the faces on this tall thin flask.

The only name I've ever heard given any of these pieces is The Smilers. However, almost all of these grotesque faces aren't smiling, they're laughing.

It certainly doesn't matter what you call them though, they are all welcome additions to any Shafer & Vater collection.

Wouldn't you agree?

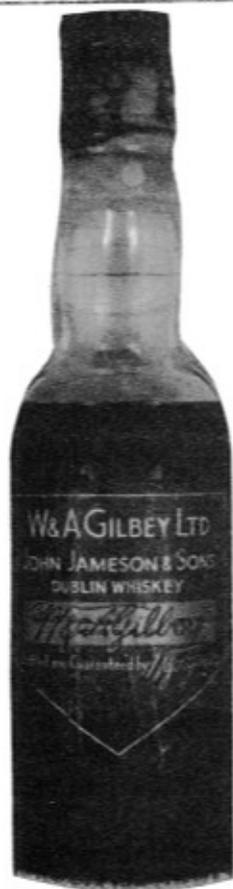
IRISH WHISKIES

by TONY NATELLI
and
BILL ORR



Our first article on John Jameson miniatures some time back pictured some current, recent and common versions, all bottled by the Jameson Distillery.

These featured today are distinctly different as they are old, non-imports, extremely rare and all bottled by other distilleries. They apparently were sold locally in Ireland during the 1940's,



'50's, and '60's.

Extra Superior (J & K Walsh), **Dublin** (W & A Gilbey) and **10 Year** (Preston's) are beauties, by any measure. This **J J & S** is from John Fitzgerald while Mitchell and Son is responsible for the **Green Spot 10 Year**, another top notch mini.

Next are three more **J J & S. A.** Millar and the **Scotch House** are



the bottlers for the two 10 year olds while Dorans Ltd. bottled the non-aged flask which is numbered and has also been seen bottled by at least five or more local Irish Distilleries (identical bottle and label).

The two different **Jameson Ten** were bottled by Bow Street and Williams-Egon, respectively. Quite a group, isn't it!

SETS

by

Scott Reinhart



This set was purchased at a specialty liquor store in Amsterdam in 1989. The packaging is printed to appear as though it was a very dirty old box with hand lettering on the front. The smudges and stains are printed on. The labels on the bottles themselves carry through with this hand-made theme.

—S.R.—



TREASURES OF THE PAST

by
BUTCH JONES



Four great whiskeys are featured this time. Unfortunately, the picture doesn't show off the labels. The first mini is Five Knights 90 proof blended whiskey. The bottle is a clear round one and the whiskey was produced by Beaumont Coe Inc., Bridgeport, Conn.

The second one is Ben Franklin blended whiskey. The 90 proof whiskey is contained in the clear round bottle. This six year old whiskey was bottled by Walter P. Powers Co. of Chicago, Ill.

Number three is Green Mountain 90 proof blended whiskey. The bottle is a brown irregular shaped flask. The label is multi-colored.

This whiskey was blended and bottled by American Grain Distiller Inc. Detroit, USA.

The last mini is Green Oaks bottled for Sentinel Liquor Store Inc., Chicago, Ill. This 90 proof whiskey is contained in a brown flask.

Hope you enjoyed these super whiskeys. I wish that these minis were in my collection. These minis are actually from the collection of the late (and great) Pat McMullen of St. Joseph, Michigan. Some time ago he was kind enough to allow me to photograph them during a visit.

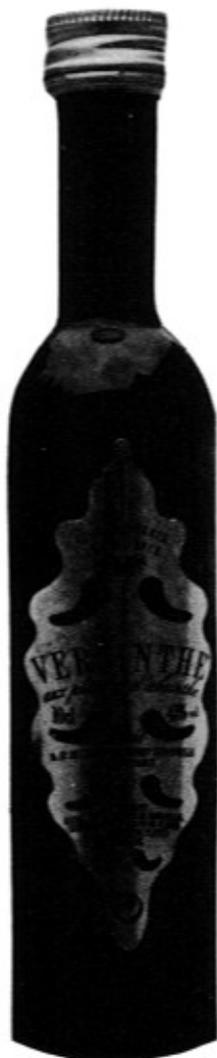
'Til next time. --B.J.--

ABSINTHE



Pictured here are two more in the series of absinthe or absinthe-type bottles. The shorter bottle, Absenta L'Etranger (The Stranger), is a true absinthe produced in Spain and found in Barcelona. Note the 150 proof on a good, colorful label.

The tall bottle of Versinthe is an absinthe-type and as close to absinthe as the French laws will allow. You can



produce it there, you just can't sell it. This bottle was found in Cannes. The interesting label is a replica of the slotted spoon used in the absinthe ritual.

The majority of these bottles have come from the Czech Republic so it's nice to see some from Spain and France.

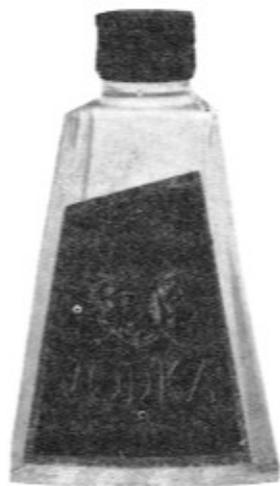
VODKA

by JOHN SULLIVAN



WOW! Eighteen bottles to show you this time. You'll have to agree that vodka is the spirit of choice these days. Now...where to start.

I guess I'll begin with the bottles which aren't available in the United States. My favorites in this category have to be Adam and Eve. Not only are the labels unique but the glass bottles with wooden stoppers are definitely



Seriously is from Sweden and has got to be the most minimalist label I've ever seen...or could even contemplate. The bottle next to it is and it's from This is a very nicely embossed bottle. The last three bottles are all from Belarus. One is simply a shorter version of another bottle shown here just a few issues back while the other two are very colorful labels of Belorusskaya. The bottles are different sizes and so are the labels.

something special. A delightful pair from Eastern Europe. And, I could say the exact same thing about the two Hungarian bottles with the bears on them. These are very clean attractive labels and bottles.

The short triangular bottle with the dark label is Barrons from Austria. This bottle is used by several vodka companies but this particular bottle was found in Malta. Now the five remaining non-imports were all found in London regardless of where they were originally from.





Now we'll turn to those which were or are sold here. The three tall bottles are all 100ml and come from a set of five which was sold last Christmas through the state stores in Washington. These are Kavalerist, Edmurtiya and Rybatskie.

The KavLANA is a little plastic bottle found at a chain store here in California. The Zytania is one of the Polmos bottles and a variation of all the Zytania bottles. Viking Fjord though is only seen on the east coast along with the Estonia Ston. The last bottle is Kremlyovskaya. You've undoubtedly seen this bottle but not with these contents. This is a chocolate version. I know of two others (Golden Bar and Vincent) so I wonder if there will be more.

Lots of bottles this time. Hope you liked them and are ready for more next year.

—J.S.—

TEQUILA



Esponon Tequila you might have seen in a liquor store recently, but the bottles didn't look like these, did they?

Next time we'll show you the set of three which has been issued in the U.S. This time you have to "make do" with this group of four which is found in Mexico. These are extremely well done glass bottles which are nicely embossed. The labels are also well done particularly the metallic one.

La Cuarta Generacion is another nice bottle in a shape reminiscent of a barrel. This corker does not feature the most distinctive label but the workmanship on the bottle more than makes up for that.

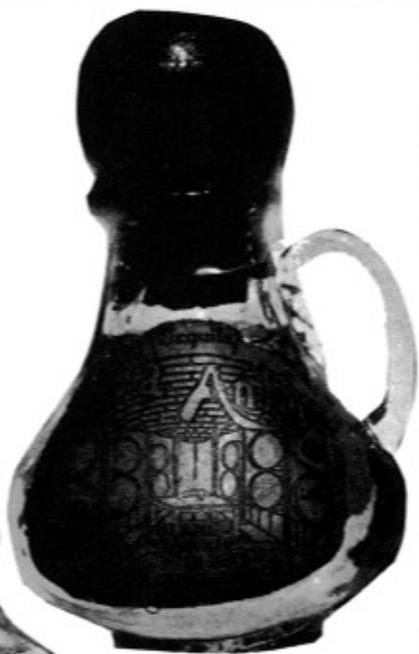
A bottle which has been shown previously is Cava Antiqua. This is the one with the giant wooden stopper and leather label. Previously we showed the most common of the three so here are

the remaining two. The bottles are color coded as to their contents. It's that little applied glass handle that makes this one a must have for even the antique bottle collectors.

It isn't often we have a figural bottle but this Stallion is the exception. Since it is in black (as is the larger 750ml counterpart), it is very difficult to photograph and then reproduce.

This time we did save the best for last though. This is the Sol bottle which was designed (both large and small) by the artist Bustamante. The face of the sun is depicted here in a majestically done piece. You'll have to have a connection in Mexico to obtain it, but it's surely worth the effort. According to the importer, exactly six of these were brought into the U.S. as samples.

Next time we'll have a mix...both tequilas and mescals.



RUM



As promised a short while back, here are some older rums for you. A few of the labels are still a bit dark but hopefully you'll be able to see them well enough.

All but two were sold here so let's begin with those. They are the Ship's Rum and also Mooney & Co.'s Finest Old Jamaica Rum. Both of these were made for the U.K. market in the 1950's. The Ship's Rum has an absolutely dandy label.

Now we'll turn to two which were made for the New England market, albeit in different decades. The Bal Carlo was done for the Northeastern Liquor Corp. of Boston in the 1930's while the Ron Virgin was a Virgin Islands import of the 1950's.



Just as the old 1930's California whiskies are highly collectable and difficult to find, so are the old California rums. These last three range in age from 1936 to 1938. They are Premier, a New England rum bottled for United Cigar Stores of San Francisco by the very famous 3G Company of Burbank, California. Also produced for a San Francisco company is Kingston Club which was bottled by Western Liquor Products. Finally we have Old Warrior which was manufactured and bottled by the Grizzly Club Company of Los Angeles. This Grizzly Club name should be quite familiar to whiskey collectors.

We'll do another batch of older and even more colorful rums next time.



Glass!



You might call it genre collecting. Some go after bottles with ships, sailors, horsemen, etc. on the label, but this is a new wrinkle...collecting by a specific part of the brand name. Here for presentation then are nine Silver bottles.

Let's begin with the bottles which come from south of the border. Silver Knight and Silver King both hail from Mexico and were produced in the 1930's. If the Silver King bottle itself looks familiar, it's because it is an American bottle which was used by the Mexican distillery. Here in the States, Manhattan Liquors also did this.

Our northern neighbor Canada is responsible for the Schenley Silver Wedding which appears to be from the 1990's.

The U.K. bottles are the tall Silver Spring from A. Gillies & Co. of Glasgow, Silver Lining from Bent's of Liverpool and Silver Glen from Seasons and Summers of London and Glasgow. All three are probably from the 1950's.

The three U.S. bottles are the other two Silver Weddings (also from Schenley) and the Silver Bell. This last bottle was produced and sold only in Florida in the 1960's. The two U.S. versions of the Silver Wedding are from the 1930's and both are extremely nice bottles. The shorter of the two is more unique and interestingly came after the taller 1934 version.

So there you have the first entry in genre collecting.



FROM

G R E E C E



Bottles from Greece aren't seen too often. Maybe it's because not too many of us take vacations there. It certainly can't be because there aren't many bottles...because there are lots of them. There are some ouzos made for local consumption, but the majority seems to be done for the tourists.

The first bottle is that wavy one which contains Curacao. A very nice



piece of glass which you can find with five other liqueurs in it. You'll also find the same bottle being used in Spain and France with contents from companies in those countries.

The Mastik Liqueur is a nice embossed bottle with an interesting label. I have no idea what the flavor of this liqueur is. This would seem to be

made for local consumption.

The two bottles with Greek scenes on them are definitely for the tourists. The short one which shows a fishing boat at sea also sports the Greek flag. The taller frosted bottle which touts itself as The Best Greek Ouzo pictures the Parthenon.

The boxed set of three is from the



Ouzounis Company which produces a great many tourist bottles. In fact we'll reprint much of their brochure in a future issue. This group is the Colona set which shows the different Greek columns.

Saving the best for last though (in my opinion) are the tall colored and frosted glass bottles. You can find them in various colors which include green,

blue and yellow. The Xenia Ouzo is a nice cobalt blue while the tallest one is a soft green and contains Limoncello. This was probably done for Italian tourists as limoncello is a drink found almost exclusively in parts of southern Italy.

We'll return to more Greek bottles next year.

Ski Country



The two figurals seen here represent the fine workmanship of Ski Country in the 21st Century.

The twin dolphins bottle is a great example of knowing a good thing when you see it. Several years ago the large size of this bottle was sold at DFS stores in airports but the company (Suntory) did not wish to do the miniature. Thanks to Ski Country we now have this beautifully done piece to add to our collections.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, we've seen a great deal of patriotic items for sale. To me though this Statue of Liberty bottle would have to come at the top of the list. You might not be able to tell, but the Statue is actually the stopper. If you're fortunate enough to be able to add this to your figural collection, take a good look at the intricate work that has been done. A real winner!

COGNACS



How many companies can you name that issue a set of nine different cognacs at once? Or nine different anything's? Earlier this year Croizet issued an entire line of cognacs from a V.S. to Extra and Elegance. They are as follows: V.S., V.S.O.P., Napoleon, Caractere, X.O., Excellence, Delice, Extra, and Elegance. Prices range from a few dollars to quite expensive so that the entire set will cost approximately

\$90.

This summer Remy Martin issued its Extra here in the U.S. It had been available earlier in Asia in two versions as you can see from the different tops on the two bottles. You had to be quick to find it though as it was not generally sold and usually given with the large bottle when it was purchased.

Our three remaining cognacs were also all released this year. The Augier



cognac



is particularly nice because it is age dated and the Michel Fogeron because of its wax seal. Both of these were sold in Montreal, Canada. The last bottle, Monarch, was a specialty found in the Washington State stores.

It's been a good year for cognac miniatures here and you haven't even seen the Frapin Extra and the Camus Borderies!

PISCO

Quick, what's the spirit most identified with Peru? If you said "pisco", you were definitely correct. This group of four is but a tiny representation of all the different pisco bottles which may be found there. If you remember the variety of all the Inca Pisco bottles, you've only scratched the surface.

From left to right, they are Tres Erres (Three R's), Pisco Control, Capel, and Alto del Carmen. If you'd like to find out more about Peruvian bottles, then visit next year's MMBC Show and chat with the collectors from Peru!



SCOTCH

David Maund



I thought I might make everyone happy this time. With that in mind, I've gathered a group of both glass and ceramic as well as old and new. I'd like to begin with the oldest and work our way forward.

Usually I save my favourite for the end, but this time I'll begin with it. In my collection you'll find just a very few of the American or scotch-type brands. Well, here is a famous one from the late 1930's, Hiram Walker's Epicure. Note

that it really does state: American Blended Scotch Whisky. At one time this was legal, but as you undoubtedly know, for over fifty years now all scotch must come from Scotland. At least there's no "e" in whisky.

Its elderly companion is one of a set of different spirits bottled for the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City. This 8 year old blend actually came from Alexander Montrose Company of Glasgow.



was a special one made by Springbank in Campbeltown in 1988 to celebrate the opening of a car dealership. The Longrow is dated 1974 but that really means 1990 as it's a 16 year old single malt. This brand is not seen too often and in the larger size is highly prized.

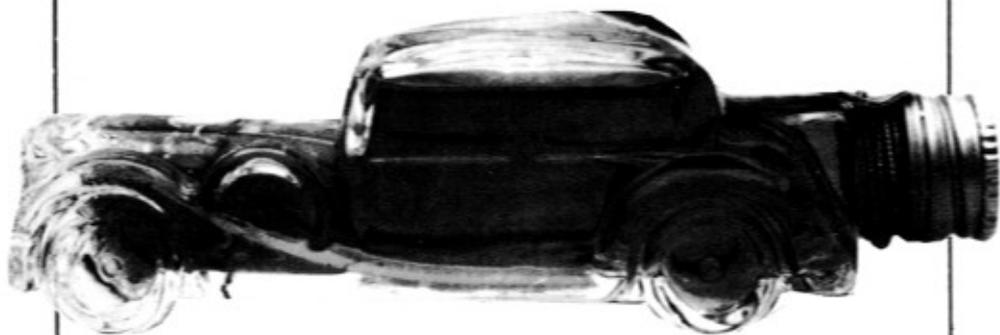
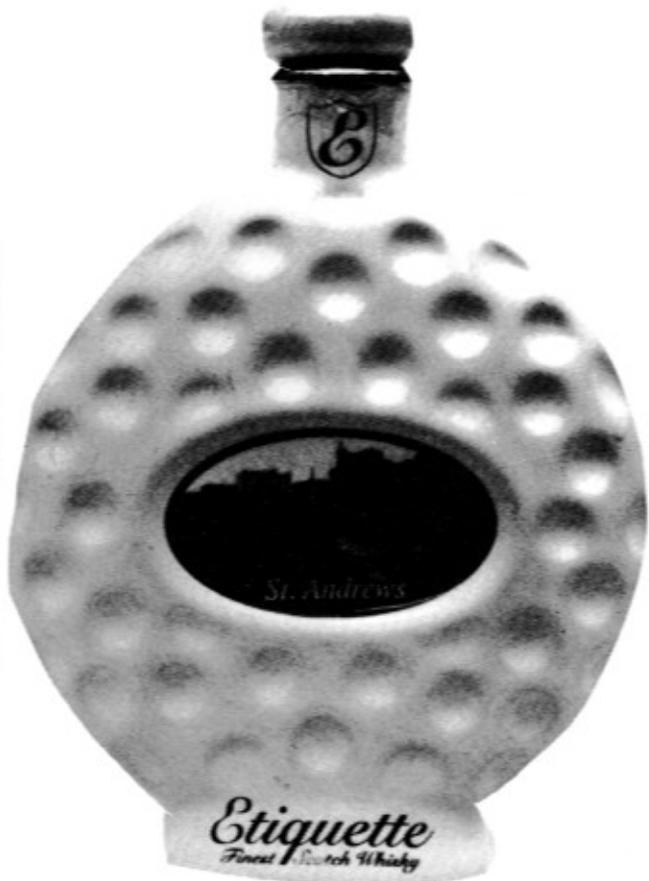
The newest straight glass piece then is the Glen Garioch 10 year old which is only a couple of years old. Simply a different label for a well known brand.

And finally we come to the two



We'll jump now approximately a couple of decades for the Scotch-Comfort and the Sir James Douglas. The first is from the 1950's while the latter is from the late 1960's. Most of you American collectors are used to Southern Comfort but how many of you have ever seen this variation? The James Douglas was one of the first "light" scotches and came out about the same time as the lighter Vat 69 version.

The bottle which says Peugeot 405



specialty items both of which were issued in 1991. Previously we've shown the Turnberry Golf bottle and this is now the St. Andrews golf bottle produced by the Epicure company in Scotland. The antique auto in molded glass was done for Father's Day last

year by the Marks and Spencer group. You've known about their Christmas bottles and now you know about another holiday bottle.

Hope you've enjoyed these. I'll return in 2003! --D.L.M.--

MELO'S MINIS

by MIKE OLSON



This one is for Jim Crawford. Jim, as many of you know, is one of the people who make the Midwest Miniature Club one of the best in the world. Jim lives in Cincinnati, Ohio, which was the home of Kolmar Inc. Kolmar produced many great miniatures during the 1930's, but was another victim of nasty ol' WWII. Komar did some custom bottling for liquor establishments which led to some very rare bottles. They also made variations of their brands and some may be found both in flat bottles and their trademark 2 ounce round lady's leg.

Anyway, bottle number one is Bridge Club Straight Bourbon Whiskey. It is 3 1/2 years old, is 90 proof (as are most of the rest) and has a red and black label. Next is High Bridge Straight Rye Whiskey which is one of the rarer bottles in the series. Bottle number three is Prince of York Straight Bourbon Whiskey which also comes in round variations.

The next three bottles are King's DeLuxe Straight Rye Whiskey in 2 1/2, 3 and 4 year old variations. These are followed by pairs of Nite Club Special in Straight Rye Whiskey and Straight Bourbon



Whiskey. The Varsity Club Straight Bourbon Whiskey is another great looking bottle in red and black. It is 93 proof as is Komar Special Straight Bourbon Whiskey. I have two variations of the Broadmoor Straight Bourbon Whiskey.

The Hi-Ball Special Straight Bourbon Whiskey is another terrific looking bottle in red and black but this one also has a little green in the label. The next two bottles have light green multi-colored labels. The Beaumont Straight Kentucky Bourbon is



probably very rare and just cost me the princely sum of \$7 plus postage. The Valley Blossom Straight Whiskey is also fairly rare. The last of these is Orange Blossom Straight Whiskey and is a rather plain bottle.

Finally, I had never seen nor

heard about the Beaumont until I recently acquired it. If any reader has additional brands by Kolmar, please e-mail me at melosminis@charter.net.

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by
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