

**THE**

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No. 177 2004

**MINIATURE  
BOTTLE  
COLLECTOR**

**PERU**



2001 Hardbound Edition



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# MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

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## Our Cover:

From Peru come the two Huacos on the cover this time. You may read all about them in the article which begins on page 14. Figural collectors should take note that Fernando Saettone will be at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary MMBC show the end of April in St. Louis. Possibly he'll have duplicates?

## FROM THE EDITOR:

This afternoon I came back from the post office with three packages of bottles. I was like the proverbial kid in a candy shop. The bottles in these three boxes were the results of one buy and two trades. I realized I was still as excited as ever to add new pieces to my collection and as the cliché goes, "the fire was still in the belly".

I started when I was in high school which means in just a very few years I will have been collecting for fifty years. This issue of the magazine begins the thirty-first year of its publication. So it almost feels as if I've been a bottle collector my whole life. So...why am I bringing this up?

The answer is precisely that fire mentioned above. The geography, the history, the magnificent workmanship in many of the porcelain and molded/blown glass pieces all interest me. I really did think that after thirty years of writing these columns and different articles that I'd be burned out. However, I'm not and I can't even imagine not having the zeal and enthusiasm.

Now the question is, what keeps your interest alive? Only you can answer that but I know that many of you share my feelings and the hobby will go on and on. Various collectors have found evidence of clubs in existence over sixty years ago. The flame didn't die out and it continues to burn. So whether you have 100 or 10,000 bottles, enjoy them. I hear some collectors talk about retiring and worrying what they'll do to fill the time. If you've got a collection, that question answers itself.

All this of course brings us to the MMBC show in St. Louis this April.

For a quick aside, the gremlin who ran the ad for the previous year's show in our last issue has already been dealt with...severely! If you can possibly make it to the show, you'll find many old friends...and many older bottles. The tables have been sold out for weeks which means there won't be a spare inch that isn't bottle covered. Hope to see you there.

Last time in this column I mentioned that there would be more of the Remy Martin Louis XIII miniatures available in this area. Well, they came and they went. I was told there were a dozen six-packs brought in for collectors and they are all gone. That means approximately seventy collectors all parted with about \$225 and up. That just might tell the companies something. In fact, I have been told that a mini bottle of the Shaker Vodka will be on the shelves soon. Supposedly over \$50,000 was spent developing the mold for this glass bottle. Maybe people are taking pride in what they produce once again. Not everyone wants 99 cent plastic bottles.

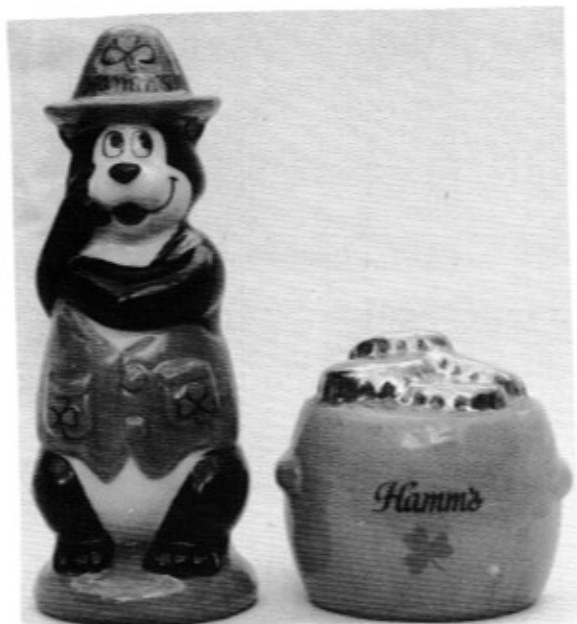
We have sixteen articles for you this time with some of our regulars and then we welcome Fernando Sacttone from Lima, Peru. With Fernando's help, we're going to see that there are many and varied bottles available in Peru. You've seen just a handful so far. Next time I can promise you more...plus a large glass rabbit (seems only appropriate given the time of year).

If you turn to page 48 you'll notice quite a change. This is the last issue which will be sent out to some of you via 3<sup>rd</sup> class. Beginning with this issue there are only first class and/or airmail subscriptions. What this means is that some of you will be paying a new rate shortly (which goes entirely to postage) but you'll receive your issue in a matter of days...not weeks. We have had instances where an issue took six weeks to get across the country. No more!

Hope you enjoy this issue and that naturally, you'll keep on thinking small.

-DMS-

# HAMM'S IRISH BEAR



Yes, he's looking for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow; however, this pot of gold contains bottles of Hamm's Beer. Our newest Irish Bear salt and pepper set will be available in February. Only 576 sets were produced and our retail price has not changed; it's still \$40 per set and we'll pick up the insured postage. If you've followed the "adventures" of our bear, you'll know that the secondary market has seen the prices rise on all the items. Recently only one pair of our salt and pepper sets could be found on e-bay and that was out of 250 Hamm's items which were being offered.

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# WHAT'S NEW



We start off the new year with a real hodge podge if you will. The bottles come from all over and are both glass and plastic. The one common characteristic among them is that they all are sold here in the U.S.

Let's begin with the plastic bottles and have the Beachcomber set as our lead off. This set is sold in a variety of areas as they've been seen in both California and Tennessee. In the former they are sold as a set of four in a little box while in the latter they are all individual bottles. If you're into

flavored rums, this is the set for you.

Elsewhere in this issue you'll see the five Extreme Vodkas. Well, just to keep things even, they issued a sixth and this is the Extreme Gin. Actually it's name is Bumpy Gin. This also may be found in a variety of states.

Now we have three more to finish up our look at the plastics. These are the Old Forester (a nice new label), R & R Canadian Whisky, and Caffe Lolita, a Mexican Licor de Café ala Kahlua. Nothing special here.



Turning now to the glass bottles, we'll start with Flor de Cana Limon from Nicaragua. There are several other Flor de Cana rums available; however, this is the only frosted glass one that I know of. Again, sold in many different markets in the U.S.

We'll turn now to two U.K. bottles which were found in Florida. These are the Churchill London Dry Gin from England and the Murdoch's Perfection 12 year old Scotch from Scotland. These are both standard, straight glass bottles.





Now we jump to California for the set of three Jepson Brandy bottles. Jepson is a winery which has taken to making brandy and these are three varieties they produce: Old Stock, Signature Reserve, and Rare. All are produced in Mendocino County in old style alambic stills. My guess is that these are only sold in Callee-for-knee-ah as our new Governor Arnold says.

Our last two bottles are the Remy Red and Destinee Liqueur. The former is one of three Remy Martin liqueurs. Several years ago a flask version of Remy Red appeared.



This is not the same but a different berry infusion. Three new ones appeared recently in large size, but only two were produced in miniature. The Grape infusion was not made.

The last bottle is Destinee a new liqueur from White Rock in Maine. This actual bottle has been used to "house" other contents (notably Three Olives Vodka) but that does not take away from the nice appearance of this new one.

So that's it for the beginning of 2004. May you find all the bottles you're looking for the entire year!

# TEQUILA



A baker's dozen plus one for you this time. Of the fourteen, six are for sale in the U.S., seven are found in Mexico, and one is a true novelty which is for sale only in England.

Of the ones available in Mexico, three are rather plain and unassuming while the others have much more character. The 4 Copas and pair of Gran Amigo, Oro y Plata (gold and silver), are all straight glass without much effort in the labels.

The remaining four have much greater endearing qualities. Atalaje Anejo is a short round bottle often

used for tequilas; however, the metallic label gives this bottle a great boost. The Querencia Reposado is a short square bottle with a very nice "Q" label. Los Corrales (The Corrales) is a standard glass bottle with a very colorful label. It contains joven or young tequila and pictures those corrales on the label.

The last of those found in Mexico is the nicest. Dios Agave Reposado is a frosted glass bottle with silk screen label and wood stopper. You can also count this as one of the see through bottles too.





The bottles sold in the U.S. include two sets of three this time. Previously we've shown a pair of Zapopan bottles as they are sold in Mexico. This set of three (silver, gold, and reposado,) is different from the pair but the labels retain the same basic design. The other set is much more collectable. The Herencias are silver, reposado, and anejo. As you can see, they are short squat bottles with wood/cork stoppers.

Finally we come to our oddball. The Edible Company in England produces a number of products

with incredible contents. In the vodka bottles you'll find ants, gold, silver, and a scorpion. With this tequila bottle the dark shape you can see at the bottom is a worm. Originally these Edible bottles were found in liquor stores, now it's easier to find them in department stores; however, the price has now increased. This simple glass bottle with worm now costs approximately \$22 with the current rate of exchange.

Next time a very nice new set called Amate...and a few others.



# GUINNESS



**GUINNESS**  
Goodness-on-sea

He's back. The Toucan from Guinness is making another appearance. This time it's a recreation of the noble bird from a Guinness advertising campaign of many years past. This is the Seaside Toucan. This time he is doing his balancing act with two pints of Guinness instead of the usual one.

As with the previous pieces, this was made by Royal Doulton in England for Millennium Collectables Ltd. 2,000 pieces were produced.

# HUACOS

by Fernando  
Saettone



This is a series of bottles from Peru which are *Pisco Zapata*. They come from the region of *Lunahuana* in Peru which is one hundred miles south of Lima. All of these are representations of the ancient *Mochica* culture, found in the north of Peru.

For those of you only familiar with the *Inca Pisco* bottles, these figural ceramics should show you that Peru definitely has more to offer than those less interesting pieces.

*Pisco* itself is a brandy, distilled from the white muscat grapes grown in the *Pisco* region. It is the Peruvian national drink.

The pair of bottles shows two of three different finishes which are produced. They also express the erotic custom of the *Mochicas*. All the remaining bottles are different faces of the people of ancient Peru. These are all copies of the authentic *Huacos*, the name of the old Peruvian ceramics.



# VODKA

by JOHN SULLIVAN



When I originally planned this article, I thought I would show you all the new bottles which you could buy here in the U.S. Then I looked at how many bottles there were and cut back four of them so you could see two which aren't sold here.

Let's begin with those two bottles which are from Europe. The first of these is Pinky from Seriously. Now take a magnifying glass and study the bottle. Do you see the word vodka anywhere? No, not to be found. You will see that this is "Flower Powered".

It is a vodka though and is the second release from the Seriously company of Stockholm, Sweden. Don't know about you, but I have trouble taking this bottle seri.....

Its companion is Blackwood's Shetland Ice Filtered Vodka. Along with a gin, this is the first offering from a new firm from the Shetland Islands in Scotland. There will be some whiskies in a few years also.

Now the bottles that I cut were the four other flavored expressions of Player's Extreme. There are



various flavors available and you should be able to find these plastic bottles at anywhere from \$1 to \$1.50 from Florida to Maine to California and all points in between.

I also cut all the flavors of Smirnoff as these plastic bottles will become ubiquitous very shortly. Nice label on this one though. There are also three other plastic bottles to look at here. These are Skol, Thor's Hammer, and Boru. All have previously been seen in glass and probably now though will only forever be found in plastic.

Danzka from Denmark has been around for many years but 2003 was the first time it was sold in the U.S. Several other infused versions of this also may be found. Danzka is most notable for the bottle. It's not glass; it's not plastic; it's..... Well, add it to your collection and see.

Big V Orange Vodka first appeared in Tennessee last September. Since the colors of the bottle, orange and white, were the colors of the University of Tennessee and that big "V" could stand for Volunteers, it was thought this was a special for Tennessee only. However, toward the end of the year the large bottles appeared in New York and New Jersey. However, no one has mentioned seeing the miniature. It is produced by the makers of Glacier Vodka.

The latest in the Grey Goose family of vodkas, this new infusion makes another extremely well done presentation. Once again the frosted glass see-through bottle is outstanding.

And I end now with an equally

outstanding group of Three Olives Vodkas. The original Three Olives fought it out with the Vincent Van Gogh Vodka for the title of most interesting vodka back in 2000. The Van Gogh won that time but since they've switched to plastic and the Three Olives have improved their label greatly, these four pieces are very well produced see-through bottles. Here we have the original, cherry, raspberry and vanilla. I also have it on good authority that chocolate will soon be joining the group.

Next time I hope to take you back to Russia, the Ukraine, and Belarus.

--J.S.--





From

# BELIZE



Every once in a while you find something completely new and unknown. The Cane Juice Vodka had popped up in a couple of collections but this was the first time that the entire little export set was seen.

This set includes the vodka and

three rums: One Barrel, Parrot Lite and Coconut. As you can plainly note, the labels are well done and quite colorful. Unfortunately these are all plastic bottles.

Now we must ask, "What other bottles might be found in Belize?"

# SCOTCH

David Maund



My article this time is naturally on scotch; however, I really want to talk about the packaging the whisky comes in. This is not just the bottles but the presentation of the bottles.

As you'll note from the pictures, everything except one pair of bottles are shown with their special packaging. The set of Bowmore bottles was not sold in the UK as the fifteen year old I've heard was done only for the U.S. There the set was sold with a large bottle of the 12 year old. Currently a set of coasters is sold

with the bottle as the miniatures I've been told were quite a hit.

The remainder of the bottles are all shown with their own tubes as I thought you'd like to see the tubes with the bottles. Everything pretty much speaks for itself in the pictures, but let me hit a few highlights for you.

The Stronachie is quite new and just recently on the market. This is the name of a distillery which was closed in the late 1920's. The distillery has not been brought back,





only the name. I do not know who supplies the actual whisky in the bottle.

Similarly, The Old Course Clubhouse memorializes the famous St. Andrews golf course. The whisky here is also unknown. However, the bottle in the middle, the National Trust for Scotland (a marvelous label, don't you agree?), is a special bottling by Glen Garioch.

Two others you should know more about are the Bowmore and The

Macallan. The Bowmore Darkest is not part of the set shown above. It is sold in the UK and not in the US. It is very difficult to see but where the age statement is on the front of all the other bottles, this one says VAULTS. The Macallan is interesting because it is rather rare and extremely difficult to get. It won't be found in stores, only at the Distillery in Scotland.

Hope you've enjoyed a look at some of the more interesting scotch packaging  
—D.L.M.—

## A Visit To **Boozeville**



Shocking. That's all I can say...shocking. Two men in bed together. Is this a family establishment or what?

Well, the two men in this case are not to be taken lightly. They are William Jennings Bryan and Woodrow Wilson. This Schaefer and Vater bottle then can be fairly easily dated to approximately 1912. And to come to that date for this blue beauty, you have to have a bit of history.

Bryan is today most remembered for his "Cross of

Gold" speech in 1896 and the Scopes trial in Tennessee in 1925. In the early part of the last century he was the standard bearer of the Democratic Party and was known at the "Great Communicator."

For our purposes though it's what happened in 1912 that gave the humorous stretch of "being in bed together. It was William Jennings Bryan's support of Woodrow Wilson at the Democratic Convention that year which broke a deadlock after 46 ballots and gave Wilson the presidential nomination.

# MEET THE COLLECTOR:

by **Grace Neubaumer**  
and **Darlene Sandstedt**

From the pen of Jack Kelly:

"Once upon a time...not toooooo long ago, I was waiting for a flight from New York City to San Diego. It was cold, very cold, as it can be on the east coast between Christmas and New Year's Day. My head and my heart told me that during my final evening in NY, I had been celebrating the Holidays just a little too much. Finally, the aircraft took off. Once airborne, the stewardess came around and asked, 'Coffee, tea, or whatever?'

"Well now, I instantly opted for 'whatever'. In my case that happened to be a wee nip of the whisky from Bonnie Scotland. When the stewardess delivered the little green bottle, I held it in my hand and said, 'Self, do you really want to do this to yourself with over four hours of flight time left?'

Noooo... was the answer. Accordingly, I stuck the bottle in my jacket. Upon arriving at my bachelor digs, I stuck the subject bottle on top of the stereo system. During the following weeks, friends and I added a few bottles at a time. And, the rest is, as they say...history."



"History," indeed! Jack had no idea how much that "seed-bottle" that he tucked into his jacket that day would "grow". Now nearly 40 years later, 5000 catalogued bottles reside in twelve identical, well

# JACK KELLY

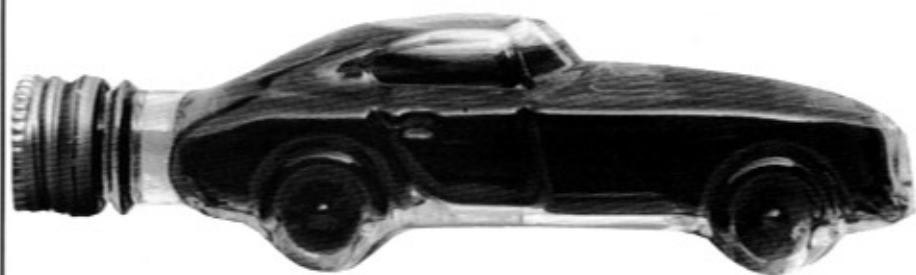


lighted, glass cases in his bottle room.

In recent years, he and wife Bobbie, who shares special interest in them, have almost filled three of the cases with figurals (or, as Jack

refers to them, decorals). Pride of position to the right of the entry door is taken by two cases which hold his beloved scotches--900+ in number.

# MINI WORLD



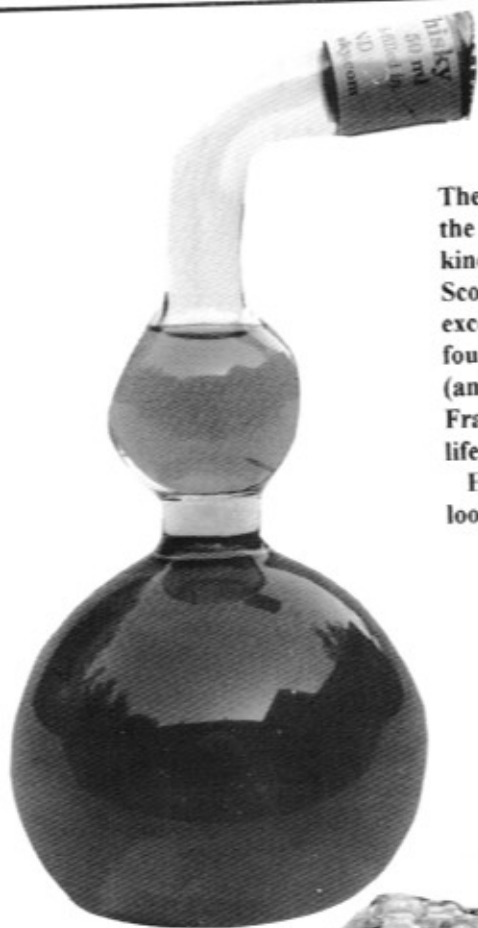
Glass figurals aren't found too often these days, so when you do come across them you get what you can. Recently three pieces were found in the U.K. any one of which would be an interesting addition to a collection. Notice the use of the word "interesting" there.

Found in both England and Scotland at the Marks and Spencer stores is the new molded glass Kenmore Sports Car. This appeared during the middle of 2003 so it's fairly safe to say that it was made as a little Father's Day gift. As far as is known, this is the second molded glass car that Marks and Spencer have issued. It contains 5cl of Kenmore Blended Scotch Whisky.

Our other molded glass bottle is the Edinburgh Rock which contains (ah, you're ahead of me) Edinburgh Rock Single Malt Scotch Whisky. The bottle shows the Rock as it is today. In the picture, the bottle is sitting on the box in which it is sold. Listed on the box is a History of Edinburgh Rock. This history begins with 1000 BC - Bronze Age Man inhabits the rock and ends with 1996 - Stone of Destiny returned to the Castle. The bottle contains 10cl of the scotch and is produced by Scotbottle Ltd of Stirling, Scotland. It's an expensive little rock, costing \$22 at today's rates.

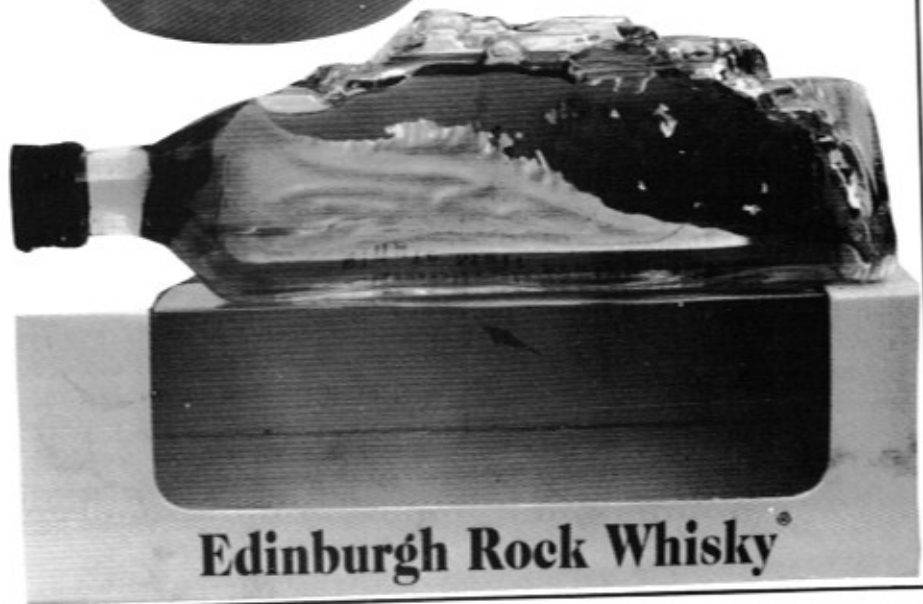
The last of our trio is the Scotch Still and this is a blown glass piece.





The company is Stylish Whisky and the bottle contain 50ml of some kind of scotch. This was found in Scotland at one of the many excellent Whisky Shops which are found in many of the Scottish cities (and even here in the U.S. in San Francisco). The picture is actually life size.

Hope you've enjoyed this short look at some new glass figurals.



**Edinburgh Rock Whisky®**

# MELO'S MINIS

by MIKE OLSON



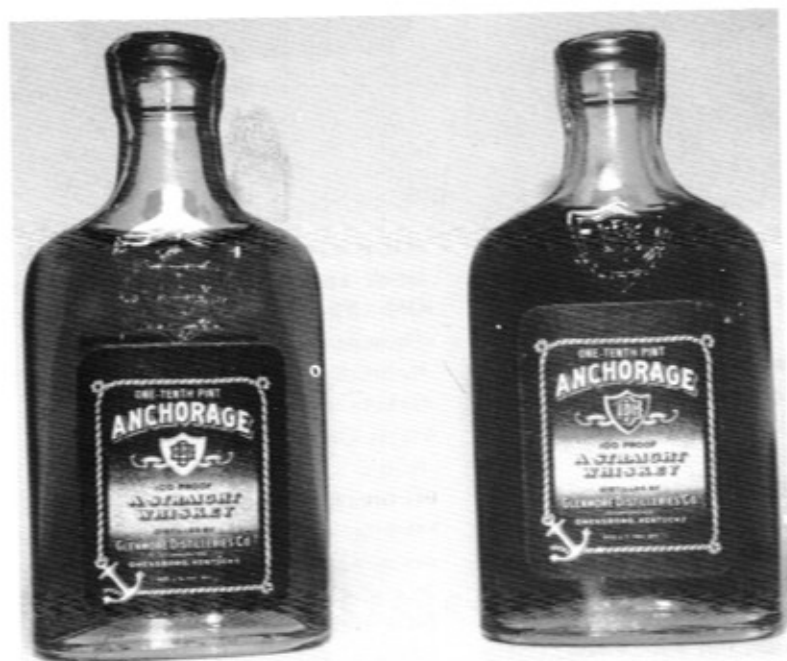
In this article I would like to return to my favorite category, namely whiskeys from the 1930's. Pre-pros are fun and I will show more in future articles, but it is still hard to beat the great labels produced after the end of Prohibition.

I will be featuring six from Labrot & Graham of Frankfort, Kentucky, along with four variations of Glenmore. These variations really get down to the gnat's ass and could easily be missed by collectors who think they

have the bottle.

We lead off with R. A. Baker Kentucky Straight Bourbon which happens to be the exact bottle pictured in *101 Rare Whiskey Flasks*. The first L & G features a copper still on the label and is Bottled in Bond. This is the oldest of the group and probably the rarest. All of these are fairly hard to come by, but this one is almost never seen. There was a round variation of this label in the big whiskey auction.

The next two have the factory





scene and the L & G is printed in red. The difference is that one has a screw cap and the other has a pull off. Bottle number five has green printing instead of red and again is not often seen. The last of these is not Bonded and has red printing. It is also the one from *101 Rare Whiskey Flasks*.

The first Anchorage from Glenmore has a black and white label and a large logo embossed in the glass. The other Anchorage has the same label, but with a red crest in the center and a smaller logo

embossed in the glass. The back labels are different as are the two Old Thompson. The first Old Thompson is from Louisville, Kentucky, and has a neat South Dakota tax stamp. The other one states Owensboro, Kentucky, as its origin.

Finally, a person might question why a collector would want so many variations in their collection. My philosophy is that you cannot be a big dog without a lot of small bones.

Until next time.....MELO.....

# IRINA



Massachusetts collector Dick Cotton knows a good thing when he sees it. In this case, it's his grand daughter, Irina, who has been celebrated in the above three bottles.

These bottles were done in Scotland by a friend of Dick's, Sammy Hamilton, who had them produced by The Whisky

Connoisseur. The first commemorates Irina's birth date, the second her 5<sup>th</sup> birthday and the third her 6<sup>th</sup> birthday this past December 19<sup>th</sup>.

Dick, who finally reached a goal of 20,000 minis has three very special ones. In years to come no doubt Irina will realize what a special collector her grand dad is.

# MEZCAL



We don't get many mezcals here in the U.S., either with or without a worm. In fact, in this group of nine, there is only one lonely worm...and we'll get to it later.

To start we have the least interesting bottle, San Martin. A very unremarkable label on a straight glass bottle, it nevertheless is highly collectable simply because it is difficult to obtain.

A much more desirable set is the Casco Legendario trio. From left to right we have anejo, reposado, and blanco. These short, squat bottles have much better labels and are equally difficult to find.

An even better set of three is the El Senorio group. You'll note that two are in frosted and colored glass. These two are both reposados, however, the one on the left is con gusano (with worm) and the other is without (sin guano). These are very attractive silk screen labels.

Now we come to the two which were found in the U.S. Several states already sell the Mezcal del Maestro; however, these two are the Anejo Reserve. Both bottles come with hanging tags which explain and extol the product, but both these labels aren't quite kosher...as they say in Spanish.



Both labels are Xerox shrink copies of the label on the big bottle. In fact the label on the right still lists its contents as 750ml. To make it even more interesting, the label on the left is a blow-up of the just the top section of the label on the left. If you think some collector has been playing with the labels, think again. Both of these came directly from the importer. It would appear that it was just easier and cheaper to make copy labels and put them on whatever glass miniature bottles could be found. It's been done before and will undoubtedly be done again.



When Jack decided to specialize, he chose to “cover the globe” with bottles from every country in the world. Accordingly, his straights are divided by country of origin and alphabetized within each one. A map of the world on one wall bristles with map pins showing how successful he has been.

In the mid 1990’s, Jack discovered the Northwest Miniature Bottle Club. He attended a meeting and has been an active member ever since. In the middle of his second term as Club President, he volunteered to become Bottle

Chairman, the individual responsible for obtaining bottles, both straights and figurals, for the Club’s monthly raffles. At one point he was heard to say words to the effect, “I liked being President, but I REALLY ENJOY this job!”

He is one of the most conscientious and enthusiastic collectors you will ever meet! Bobbie says of him: “He has found a great satisfaction in collecting minis, not to mention the great friends he has found along the way.”



# EVOLUTION



I know, I know. You've seen the Bulleit bottles before. Well, not quite. The original "bulleit" was produced Tom Bulleit several years back. He then sold out to Seagram's and the new bottle was the one above in the center. (This was one of twelve which were signed by Tom.) Then recently the international firm Diageo took over

the brand and now we have a slightly new bottle which is an exact replica of the larger bottle.

It really doesn't matter that the labels didn't turn out too well in the photo. The point of the picture was to show the new bottle with its different shoulders. So in a matter of just a few short years, we can see the evolution of a bottle!

# WHAT I DID ON MY SUMMER VACATION

by George Lisenko



Do you remember when you were in school and some English teacher would make you write an essay when each fall semester started? Well, this is just a little bit about what my wife Ana and I did on our vacation.

Last September we first went to Sicily for the bottle show. We had a great time as everyone was nice and I added a few vodkas to my collection. However, it was after we left Sicily and were driving through

Italy that I found the bottles you see here.

I only saw them once and I should have bought all the different sets the store had, but I guess I was so surprised at the pictures on the bottles in these two sets that I didn't get other ones. Anyway, it must have been some sort of World War II series as I didn't buy the one on General Patton.

I can understand the Mussolini set because it is Italian history, but



the Hitler set is really surprising. The sets were made by Alpa which I know has been around a long time because I remember the bottles from the 1970's and 1980's. They produced micro minis like these as well as the Old Store bottles and

even the Warner Brothers characters.

So I guess if you want a series of bottles on Hitler or Mussolini, you'll have to drive around Italy stopping at liquor stores like we did.

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# RUM



You can look at a good many new rums today and you won't find the "character" in the labels that you used to see. The majority of rum labels over the years seems to have been second only to whiskey labels in their ornateness and color. Think back to the old orange crate labels to make your comparison.

So this time we have six old rums from the 1930's and half of those have interesting labels. Let's start with two from Cuba, Ron Carta Vieja and Havana Club. Neither fits into our fabulous label category, but both are very difficult

to find because of their place of origin. Don't know about the former, but the latter is still being produced today. In fact there is a problem which I believe has been brought to the World Trade Organization.

It seems that Havana Club is still produced in Havana (in various ages) but because of the American embargo on Cuban goods, it cannot be sold here or in some other countries. To make up for this, a well known rum company has taken to producing a rum and putting the Havana Club name on



it. There are then two sets of miniatures you can find today with the name Havana Club on them.

From Cuba we'll go a short distance to Puerto Rico. Ron Kofresi is one of those nice labels mentioned above. Interesting character on the label and highly colorful.

Moving now from Puerto Rico, we have one of my favorites, Rhum Hindu. This was produced by a French firm on Martinique for French consumption. Great label, wouldn't you agree?

Now much like the French, even the Catalans wanted their

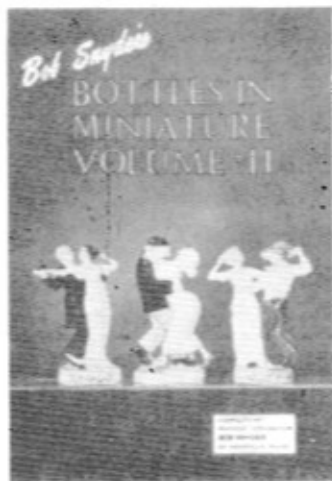
Caribbean rum, hence the Ron La Criolla from the plantaciones of Jamaica for the Escat Company of Barcelona, Spain. This is one of the "wicker" covered bottles so prevalent in the 1930's.

For our last rum, we go far from the Caribbean...to the Philippine Islands. Tanduay Rum (Dark) from the Tanduay Distillery (Est. 1854) is only one of two rums that I know of from the Philippines. It would be interesting to know if this distillery is still in business.

So a short look at some nice old rums. Next time some fabulous flasks.

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