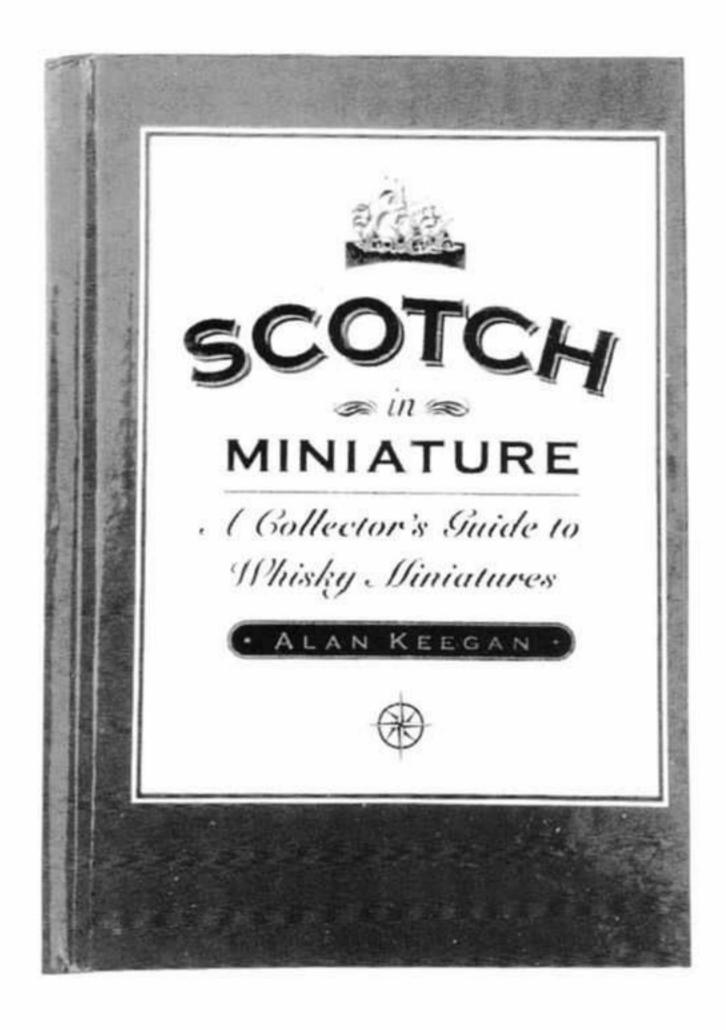
VOL. XXXI No. 180

No. 4 2004



2001 Hardbound Edition



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Our Cover:

The bottle shown on the cover this time is a representation of Seattle Slew, the only undefeated Triple Crown winner in thoroughbred racing history. In his career, Seattle Slew took fourteen firsts and two seconds in seventeen races. This decanter was made by Four Aces and is available in both this mini size and a larger 750ml. The detail and workmanship is absolutely outstanding.

FROM THE EDITOR:

Another year passes. This was quite a good year for glass bottles in that plastic didn't seem to make any more inroads than it already had. There were great tequilas and I guess this had to be the Year of Tequila just as the couple of years before were the Years of Vodka.

Interesting isn't it how just about everything or every type of bottle, has had its heyday. The notable exception there of course are miniature wine bottles. How many people collect mini wines? Nope, I don't mean do you have some in your collection because I'm certain almost everyone does, but are the wine minis actively collected? Don't think so.

Years ago it was Zwacks and liqueurs. All the great French such Cazanove, names as Garnier, Cointreau, etc. were avidly sought. We even did a special issue devoted almost entirely to Zwacks. Figurals were in great demand from the mid-1960's to probably the mid-1980's and now they're making a comeback because collectors can no longer take them for granted.

Remember when bourbons and scotches (each in their own times) were all the rage. I can remember many bourbons bringing outlandish prices of often several hundred dollars. In the U.K. the malt scotch collectors just about kept pace with crazy prices on some of the rarer malts.

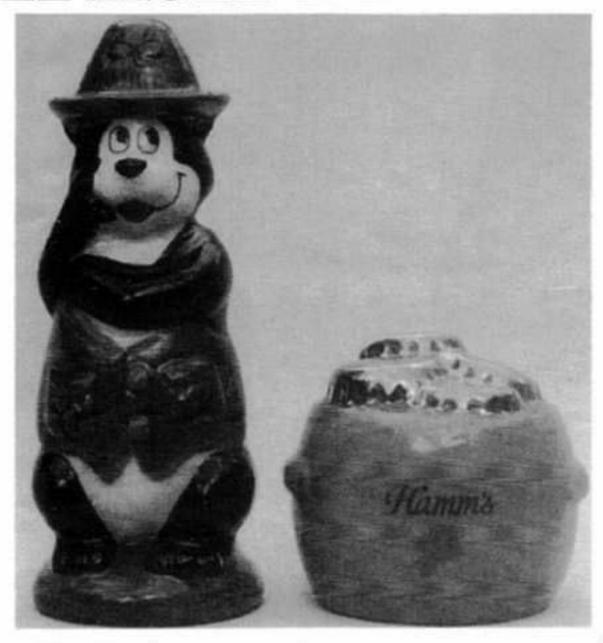
So every bottle has its day (to paraphrase a well known saying). How about you...ready to start on mini wines?

It's amazing what you find when you start cleaning out old files. The Marco and Manny's articles in this issue are two which wouldn't be here if I hadn't been house cleaning. But I also found some information I think you'll enjoy.

Everyone knows about Christian Ringnes marvelous Museum in Oslo, Norway, but did you know there was a mini collector's club in Oslo a generation ago? In 1981 a man named Fred Osther started The Miniature Bottle Collectors Association of Norway. In August of that year he published his first ten page bi-lingual bulletin, Mini-News of Norway. Later on he issued a special pewter miniature stein with the M B C A etched into the pewter. Unfortunately the club is no longer in existence; but how about where you live? If there are a few mini collectors around, why not start your own little group. The one thing every collector always hears from someone he/she has just met is, "I didn't think anyone else collected these." If you get some people together, none of them will ever have to think they are alone in the world in collecting liquor bottles that you don't drink but just look at.

Have a wonderful holiday season and see you in 2005...just keep 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 pries 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've got that old baker's dozen for you once again this time. And, as usual, it's a mix of glass and plastic. What's especially nice though is that twelve of the thirteen are all readily available in the U.S.

We'll begin with the plastics. The newest Cruzan from St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands is the Raspberry Rum. I have no idea why anyone would want their rum to taste like raspberries...but then to quote those old Romans, "de gustibus non disputant" or "taste cannot be disputed".

Then we have the three different Potter's bottles. If you remember way back in the 1970's, you'll remember Potter's having some very superior porcelain bottles. But since everything changes, now we have plastic bottles of Premium Brandy, Crown Canadian Whisky, and Potter's Whiskey. There is a vodka also available so maybe there's even a scotch lurking somewhere in the dark recesses of a wholesaler's warehouse.

Our remaining plastic is the Blue Wave Raspberry Vodka.







What's going on here? First raspberry rum, now raspberry vodka. Eeccchhhhh. Well, at least it's blue. I could understand if it was blueberry flavored, but when raspberries come in red, black and gold, why color the vodka blue? For your information, all the plastics were found in southern California.

Next let's look at the glass and begin with another raspberry vodka. This one from Absolut. And, at least it's in red, not some other color. Next to it is J. Du Pont XO Royal Cognac which was found in a local liquor store but since it had no government warning label, must be a sample bottle. The glass is very heavy and almost would appear to be similar to Japanese bottles.

Next to it is the Meukow Vanilla Cognac. Previously you've been shown all the other Meukow bottles with the panther on them, but this new flavored one made its appearance just this year. It's sold around the U.S. but the other two cognacs were found by a fellow collector in San Francisco. These



are the VS Monarch and the Liqueur d'Orange Cognac. Since Grand Marnier first made its appearance there have been other companies producing an orange liqueur in imitation.

Finally we come to our last three white spirits. These are Martin Miller's Gin, Cachaca Coral Rum, and Moskova Vodka. Working backward, the Moskova is a new one from Jordan and the only one of our thirteen not sold in the U.S. Miller's is an excellent bottle with a marvelous label which demands

reading (with a magnifying glass). And last we have Cachaca Coral with the picture of the coral snake on it. Cachaca is not considered rum by most drinkers or even collectors. It's sort of like saying advokaat is vodka. Close...but no cigar.

Anyway, it's a nice hodge-podge for you this time. Hope you liked 'em!

--DMS--

TEQUILA





Lots and lots of new tequilas for you this time. Some are available here in the U.S. while others will be found only in Mexico. Let's begin with those bottles...and the best of the lot.

This would be the blown glass Don Malaquias which comes complete with another nice little inset blown glass piece. It has an elegance that is rarely seen these days. Another bottle is similar in height but what it lacks in elegance it makes up for in other ways. This is the Llano Grande. If it appears to be a double shot glass, then that is exactly what it is.

The other two Mexican bottles are Casco Viejo, a rather normal everyday bottle and Las Trances





(reposed) which is not so common a type. In fact this is the Mexican version of the bottle and our bridge to the bottles which are sold in the U.S....the first of which is also the Las Trancas. You'll note that not only are the bottles themselves different but so are the labels. Naturally you'll have to have both!

The piece next to the U.S. version is Bracero with a nice wood stopper. This bottle appeared and disappeared within a few short months and now is no longer seen.





Another bottle which was photographed for this article was the XXX. It is not shown here because the label is all red which, as many of you know, photographs as black. It's an interesting bottle because it is a "mixto" or rather mediocre tequila. The rumor was that it was created as an adjunct to the film XXX which was shown in 2003. It also is no longer seen.



The remaining five bottles are all still found in many areas. The two straight bottles don't offer much in originality except that the El Tesoro is nicely understated. This bottle comes in all three basic styles of tequila with the anejo being shown. The Dos Manos is another anejo which was announced in all three styles but only the anejo mini was released.

We finish with an excellent set of the three Corazon. If we gave awards for well designed bottles, then these would definitely would be in the running. And, if you like to sample tequilas, this is a wonderful way to try three superb tequilas. It surely beats buying the big bottles.

All in all, a good assortment for you this time. In 2005 we'll look at the Dona Carlota bottles and many others.





SCOTCH

David Maund



Three groups of three for you this time. And, they are surely a mixed bag as I believe it might be said in the U.S. I'm rather covering the entire spectrum of U.K. whisky production with this group.

The initial group of three is the Benromach and the two Bladnochs. All three are single malts but the first is a Speyside while the other two are Lowland whiskies. Benromach is a small distillery

owned by Gordon & Macphail and it has a nice little gift shop where you may purchase a number of G & M products as well as the Benromach. The two Bladnochs are of interest for two reasons. The labels are colour Xerox and they are sold only at the distillery.

Our next group of three is the Compass Box set. I know that the larger bottles of this set are sold in the U.S. but I don't believe the



miniatures have been exported. Don't ask me what the pictures are on the labels. In any case, the Asyla is a blend made up of grain and malt whiskies. Hedonism is a vatted grain whisky and Eleuthera is a vatted malt whisky. If memory serves, these three represent the particular three tastes of the Each had owners. whisky produced which they personally wanted to drink.

The final group of three is possibly the most unusual. The Speymalt Macallan is a special bottling from Gordon & Macphail and has been done each year for several years. I can trace the bottlings back to 1998 and that's when the label misspelled the word whisky by placing the "e" in it.

The next bottle is a 100ml issued by The Scotch Malt Whisky Society. You had to belong to the



Society to pick this one up. It's called "The Last Drop" for a very good reason. The remains of 891 different whiskies went into producing this vatted malt. And for those who must know this sort of thing, it is 102 proof.

The last bottle isn't a scotch at all but the first true bottling of a whisky from Wales. Penderyn is a single malt Welsh whisky which comes in this fancy little box. I know there have been other whiskies from Wales (Prince of Wales for one) but there has been some controversy and now the Penderyn has been issued as the first true malt.

That ends another year. I'll be back in 2005....as soon as I have something to write about and have the pictures taken! Happy New Year!!

--D.M.--

RYNBENDE



Not too long ago we had an article for you about the Rynbende boy and girl carrying pails. There were several variations of those two pieces. Now another pair of interesting Rynbendes have been found. These are the two lamp bottles shown here. The one on the left appears to have a usual multicolored delft design while the lamp on the right is definitely a different

design that is commonly seen.

These stand 3 ¼ inches tall without the stoppers but have different labels. Since both styles of labels were used in the 1950's, this is probably their era of production. We now have two lamps to take their place along with the candle holders, shoes, windmills, and milk pails which will be found in a great many collections.

Ski X Country

It seems that the Elk and Wolves mini will be the last of the Ski Country bottles. All good things must come to an end, and indeed, this is the second ending for Ski Country. The Ski Country Club Newsletter dated November 2004, has the following information:

"We're Retiring. Yes, Frank and I have decided to call it quits and just retire and travel. This will be your last newsletter. When Frank and I bought Ski Country in 1999, we said we would give it five years of our lives. The time has now come for us to give it up and concentrate on our family. We would have loved to have sold Ski Country but that didn't happen, so we are just closing the doors.

"It has been a lot of fun for us producing decanters and meeting all of you either on the phone or at one of the shows. Our convention two years ago was a lot of fun, also. Producing decanters was a real learning experience and one that we really enjoyed. It was truly fascinating watching your idea come to life in porcelain. It takes many hours of research and many e-mails and phone calls before an actual sculpture is made. And, then



even after receiving the first sample, changes are made before final production.

"www.skicountrydecanters.com
is our web site and we will continue
to keep it going. You can still look
at the pictures of the decanters as
well as the price guide. You can
also continue to e-mail us at
jmwillburn@aol.com"

Frank & Jacque Willburn

So another chapter in mini bottle collecting has ended. For almost thirty-five years the name Ski Country has been synonymous with quality porcelain bottles. They will be missed, but a great many collectors can look to their shelves and be reminded of what once was.

From

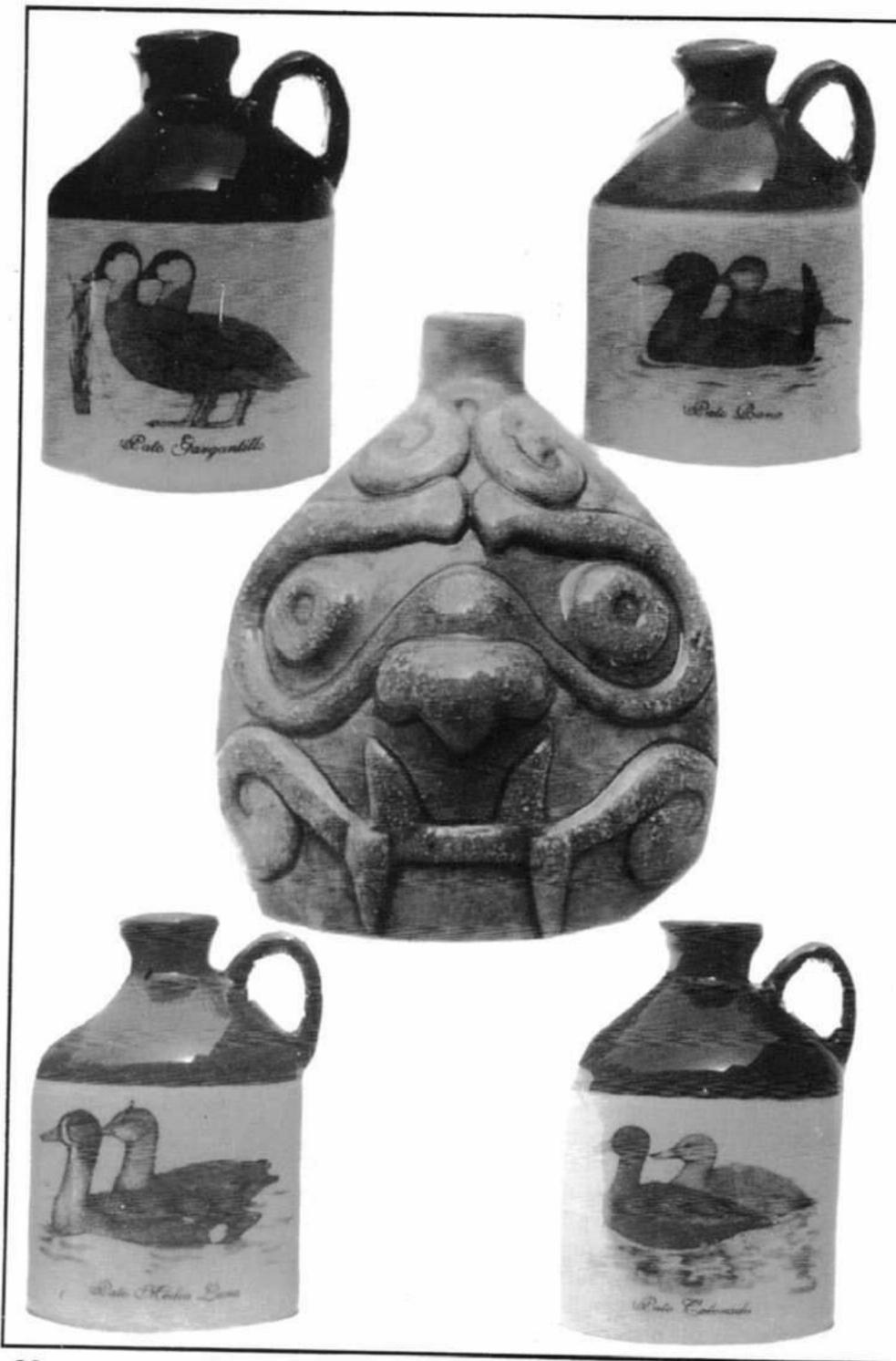
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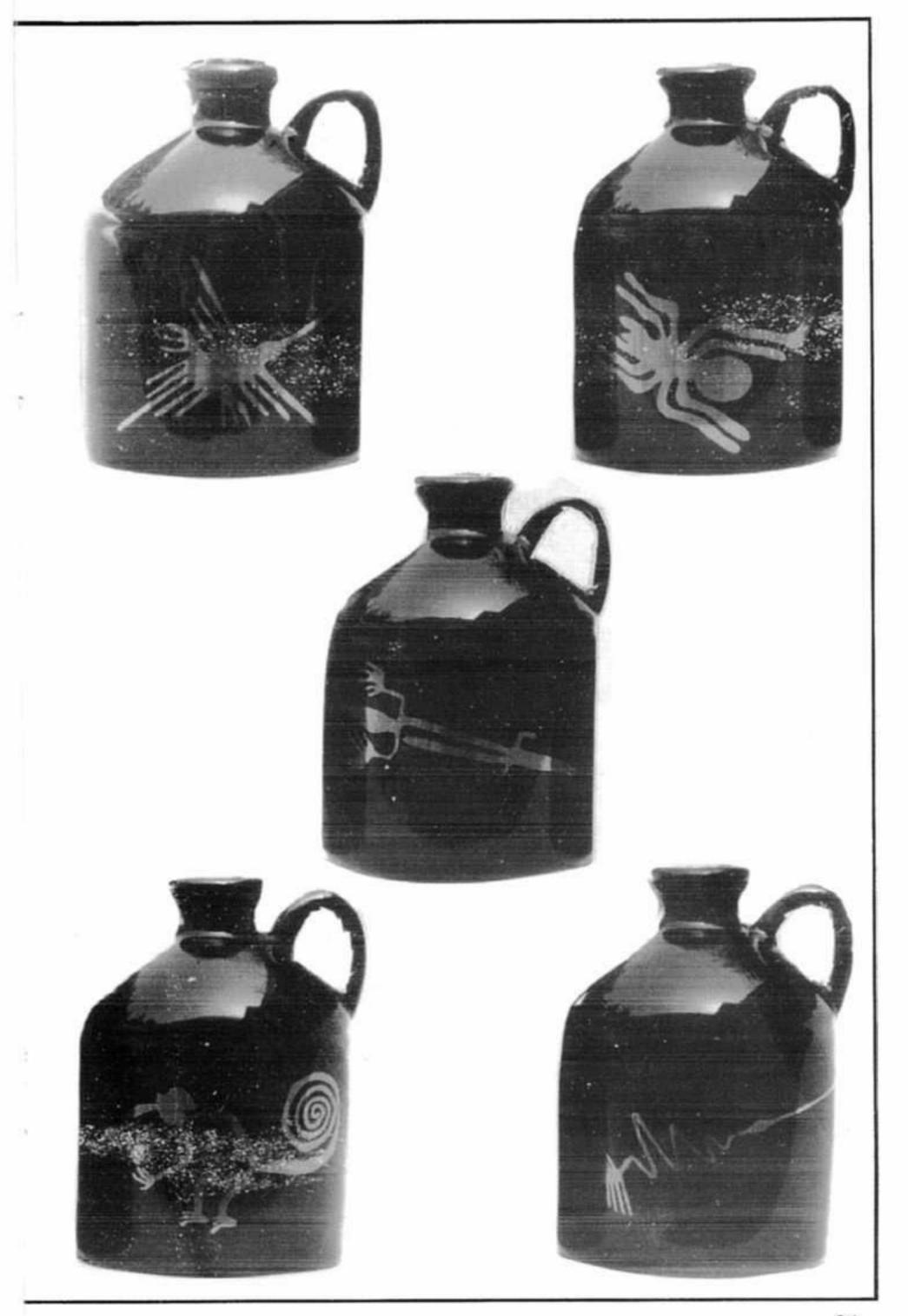


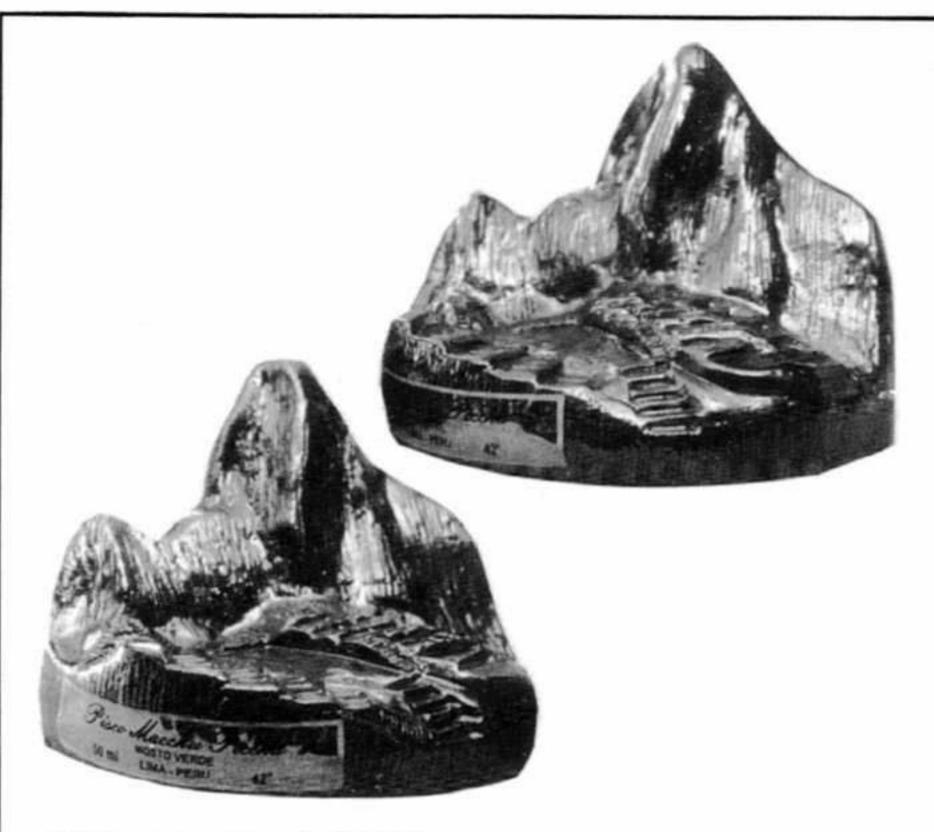


A few issues back we ran an article by Fernando Saettone from Peru. In that he showed the newest bottles from Peru. This time there are a great many more bottles to show you but unfortunately he didn't send us any information. Obviously though, you'll certainly enjoy seeing the pictures.









individual There some are bottles but there are also some sets. We have three different barrels, six different black jugs with gold insects and animals(?), and five different two tone jugs with pictures of different ducks on them. Then there is also a set of bottles in the shape of Macchu Picchu. These are in gold, silver, and other colors only two of which are shown here.

If you'd like some of these bottles, you'll either have to go to the bottle show in Lima, Peru next February or the MMBC show in St. Louis the end of April. Obviously the latter is closer but wouldn't be interesting to meet all the South American collectors and see some collections?

Dust off that high school Spanish!



MANNY'S

Wow, a look back in time if ever there was one. While cleaning out some files, I came across another sheet from Manny's Liquors of Florida. This was a little price list from 1939. So here for your edification, is a little news from sixty-five years ago.

SPECIAL-JUST RECEIVED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE U.S.

GARNIER: French imported, tapering glass cordials. 25 different kinds. Only 100 sets available. 40 cents each, or a set of 25 for \$9.00

Abricotine Blackberry Peach Anisette Crème de Menthe (green) Crème de Menthe (white) Crème de Cacao Crème de Moka Crème de Roses Crème de Vanille Parfait Amour Crème de Violette Pousse Café Crème de Cassis French Kummel Orange Curacao Liqueur Green Liqueur d'Or Liqueur Yellow Mandarine Maraschino Prunelle Strawberry Triple Set

COINTREAU AMPHORETTES
with two handles. Assored colored
pottery, imported from France.
Only 25 sets available. 50 cents
each or \$5.50 for set of 12.

Liqueur de Couvent Cointreau Majestic Cointreau Peach Cherry Apricot Liqueur Curacao Gala Crème de Cacao Chouva Crème de Banane Cursky-Kummel Blackberry Liqueur Anisette

And, as a special treat, you could buy PLANET—French Cognac, 12 year old...only 25 cents each.

You can daydream about the days of yore, but then you'd have to accept the same type of salary available then. Remember both a movie and a gallon of gas didn't cost as much that the Cognac!

Cote d'Azur



From the south of France we have a group of very nice and interesting liqueurs. Each of these bottles came with one or two more different contents so other liqueurs were available.

The Mandarine is from Les Delices de Saint Paul as are the taller Genepi and Poire. Saint Paul or Saint Paul de Vence as it is sometimes known is a walled city northwest of Nice. The company is actually Michel Pascual.

The tall Genepi and Poire stand 7 % inches tall but contain only 4cl. The former is an octagonal bottle with a flared bottom while the latter is a slightly concave rectangular bottle. The Mandarine is simply frosted.

The darker bottle of the three tall ones is a cobalt blue containing a caramel cream liqueur. It is a product of Fisselier of Rennes. The "Carmargue" on the top label refers to a westerly section of the





Provence.

The three shorter bottles are all from Distillerie Lacheze ("guaranteed quality since 1882). It is located in Virazeil. From left to right we have Seve (an armagnac liqueur), Creme de Chataigne (and I confess ignorance as to this flavor), and Truffe which is a truffle liqueur.

One reason why all the different flavors weren't purchased had to do with weight and bringing the

bottles back to the U.S. The main however was the price. reason Several of the bottles photographed with the price tags still intact. The Caramel Liqueur as well as the Genepi were 5 euros 35 while the Poire was 5 euros 95. At today's rate that comes respectively to \$7 and \$7.75...and these were the inexpensive ones. So if you're traveling, be aware that prices will be much higher elsewhere than they are here in the U.S.

MARCO



One more step back in time. Elsewhere in the magazine you'll find a short article about Manny's or Manhattan Liquors in Florida. And, previously there has been information about Marco's Liquor Store in Chicago. So we're going to have one more go around with Marco's, but this time it's their bottles which will hold our interest.

The fifteen pieces here were all issued by the Marco Importing Co. of Chicago. The liqueurs were imported in bulk through a New Jersey company and then the Philip Blum Company of Chicago bottled those liqueurs in these fancy pressed glass decanters. If the name Philip Blum rings a bell, it's because that was one of the incarnations of the James B. Beam

Company.

So that you don't need to use a magnifying glass, the following liqueurs were used: Crème de Menthe, Orange, Manderine, Dominkaner, Crème de Violette, and Strawberry. Some of the bottles are quite plain, yet elegant, glass while others are marvelously embossed. All the bottles had matching ground glass stoppers.

There has also been talk that these bottles were also used for Avon Products at the time. If true, that makes them even more valuable because there are two groups of collectors looking for them. However, it surely doesn't matter. As miniature liqueurs, they are exquisite!!



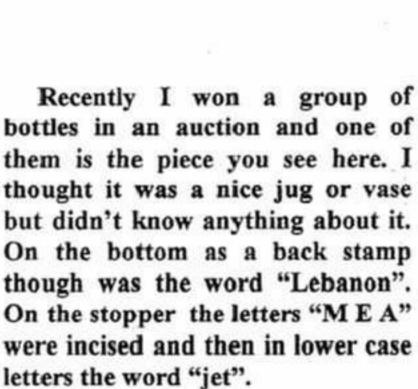




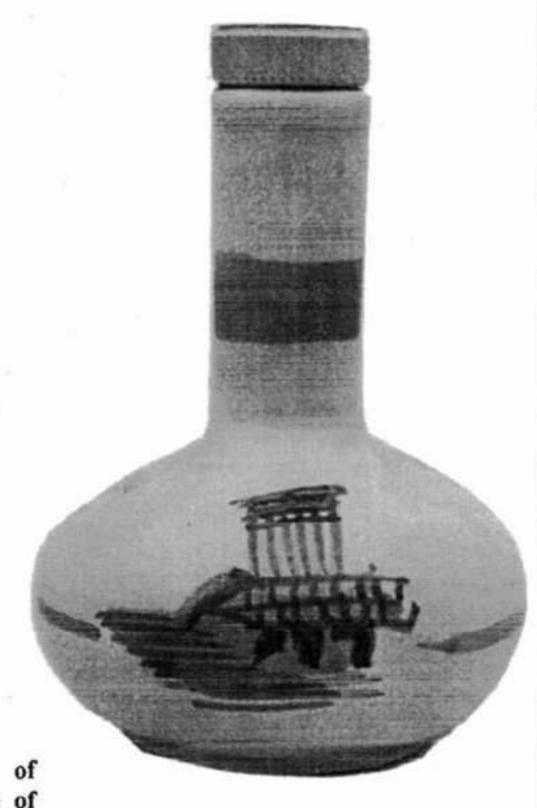


M E

A



This led me to the internet and a google of M E A jet. Now for those of you who collect travel related bottles, this will give you quite a kick. It seems that M E A is the old Middle Eastern Airlines which was head-quartered in (of all places) Lebanon. So if this isn't a passenger giveaway piece from Middle Eastern Airlines, it's a darn good imitation!



MELO'S MINIS

by MIKE OLSON



A while back we looked at some nice minis in square bottles. This time we'll feature brands which came in both square and round versions. This practice dates back to pre-prohibition (remember the Huguley's) and has made for some interesting variations.

I have seen some of the very rare Lionel bottles in both round and flat bottles and the John Smith came eight ways to Sunday. Some like Kentucky Beau in the flat are fairly common, while the square Kentucky Beau is next to impossible to find. Anyway, the bottles in this article are from the 1960's and '70's and can be found. Some of the pairs used the exact same label while the others tailored the labels to fit the bottle.

We lead off with Canada Dry Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey. The round version is the





MELO



rarer of the two. Next is Benson Creek Bourbon and I'm not sure which one would be the rarest. The J.T.S. Brown and Old J.T.S. Brown are all fairly common and the Old J.T.S. Brown is probably older and also came Bottled in Bond (1959-1963).

The Beam's Kentucky Whiskey A Blend is another common brand but was produced in (ugh) plastic. Next is O'Shaughnessy Blended Whiskey with the square version being the rarest by far. We close with Olde Sunnyford Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey, another Jim Beam product.

Finally I have managed to pick up a few more pre-pros which I will share with you. Now all I have to do is photograph the little buggers.

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

Boozeville



If you have a long memory or you save all your issues, you'll remember that this bottle has been pictured before. Well...almost. At a local antique show, a dealer had this piece for sale. I knew I had it, but I also knew there were several non-local collectors who would be very pleased to add this to their collection. So...I bought it.

Upon returning home, I found that the piece I had was

considerably smaller and didn't have "Polz Blitz de Gusel von Blasewitz! on it. This piece stands 6 1/2 inches tall while the other one is just a bit over 4 inches.

The one controversy concerning this bottle that has never been solved is whether the character holding the large stein and sitting astride the barrel is a boy or a girl. What do you think?

VODKA

by JOHN SULLIVAN



I've been incredibly busy these past few months with business and when that happens it always seems that the collection (by necessity) doesn't come first. However, I still have some interesting new bottles to show you.

Let me begin with two more from the large set of bottles which Kazenka issued in Ukraine. If you remember there are approximately 75 in the series and these two represent 1990 and 1980. One of these days I'll finish this set.



The Debowa bottle I find rather fascinating because it is composed of both glass and wood. Yes, you can see the stopper, but that's not the wooden part. A round bottle fits inside the wooden "glove" and it is on this wood that we find the Debowa label. This one is from Poland.

Now I want to feature two extremely good bottles from Poland and these are the Wesola minis. If you're traveling in the Midwest, you'll find these two in the Chicago area. Remember you won't find anything in Chicago because of their absurd anti-miniature liquor

legislation. Or, if you have a collector friend in the Chicago area, it's a good swap!

"wesola" Polish, In joyous and happy. The two shown honey flavored here are flavored. Unflavored, caramel pepper, plum and cherry are other flavors used as these vodkas follow the Old World Polish Highlanders tradition of giving their vodkas character and flavor. For literally countless generations, vodka has been produced with herbs, spices, homemade caramel and honey. So to be "wesola", get two of each of these. One to try and one to keep!





In picture number one the first mini shown is an 8 yr BSW in a brown bell-shaped bottle. The bottle contains 1/10pt 80 proof BSW. This was imported by the James B. Beam Import Corp., NY, NY. The second bottle is a 6 yo Blended Scotch in a clear bell-shaped bottle. This one contains 1/10pt 86 proof scotch. This was imported by Heublein, Inc. of Hartford, Conn. The third is Bell's Reserve BSW. This clear bell

contains 1/10pt 86 proof scotch.
This scotch was imported by
Johnston * Buscher, Inc.,
Honolulu, Hawaii.

Picture number two begins with a Scotch Liqueur Extra Special in a clear bell. This bell contain 50ml of 86 proof scotch liqueur. The next two minis appear to be the same; however, the bottle shapes are different even though they have the same contents. The second of the pair has a larger neck and cap.







The last picture shows two different Old Scotch Whisky Bells. The first is filled with 4.7cl 43 GL scotch and was imported Exclusivo para Espana Destilerias Domino, S.A. (Spain). The last bell is larger

than the first and is filled with 70 proof scotch whisky.

Hope you enjoyed this brief look at several varieties of Bell's. 'Til next time. --B.J.--

BONBONHEMINGWAY by CARLOS LOPEZ



It is amazing what you can accomplish in fifteen minutes of freedom. Yes, that is all I had between business meetings in the beautiful city of Budapest, Hungary. And I took advantage of the 15 minute break to walk a few blocks toward a liquor store in downtown Budapest. What did I

find? Nothing other than a series of 12 ceramic bottles in the shape of traditional Budapest houses, filled with apricot brandy!

The containers reminded me of the KLM houses; however, these are colorful representations of the architectural style of Budapest. The mini decanters are numbered and have a description stamped on the back, which seems to indicate the address where each particular house is actually located. They all come accompanied by a red tag, which says the following:

"Bonbon Hemingway is not only one of Budapest's best known retailers, but is also committed to the preservation of one of Europe's finest architecturally significant cities.

"In the 'Budapest City Houses' series, we provide you with porcelain figurines filled with the best Hungarian apricot brandy, decorated with images of our city's greatest living and working environments.

"Presently, there are twelve such splendid gifts for your enjoyment."

So now we have a new target for mini house collectors!!!

-- C.L .-- "carlopeto"



CLUE ???

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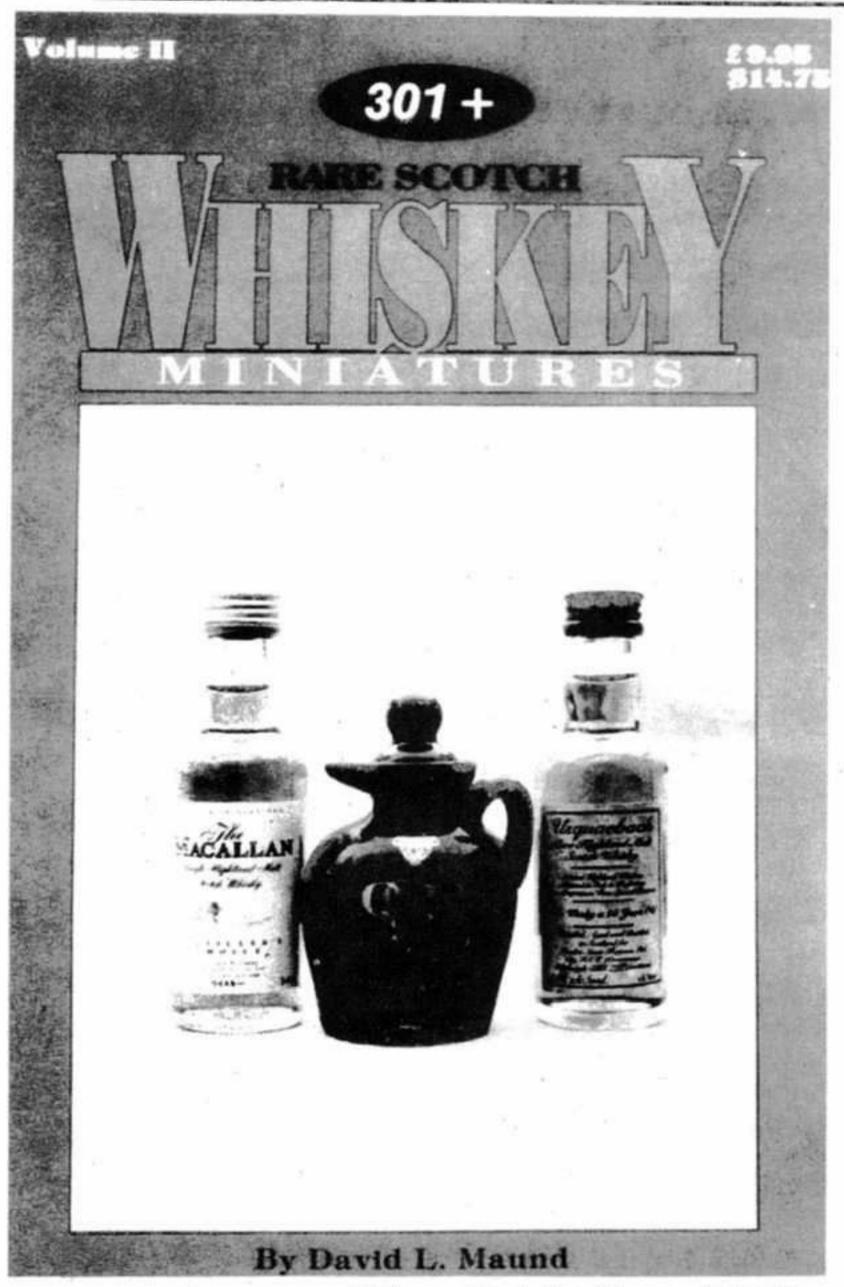


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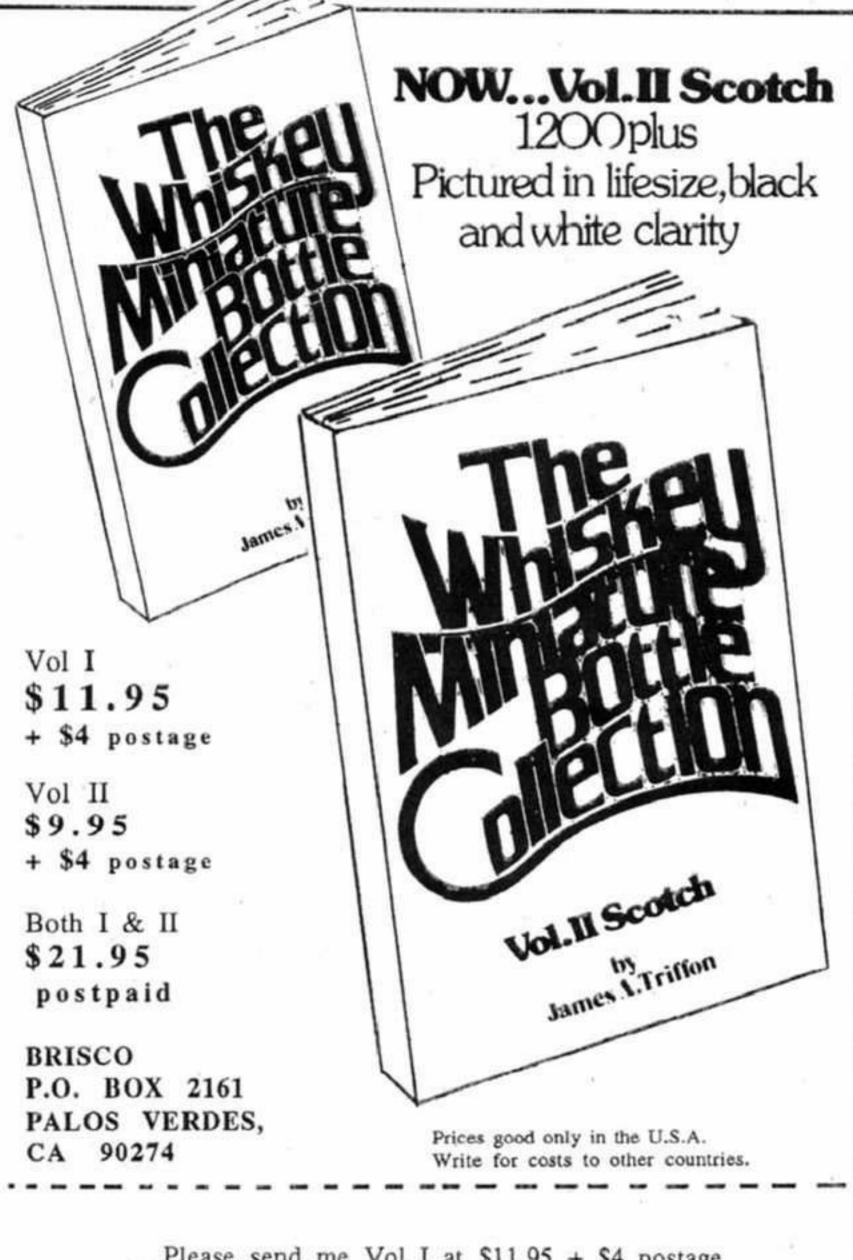


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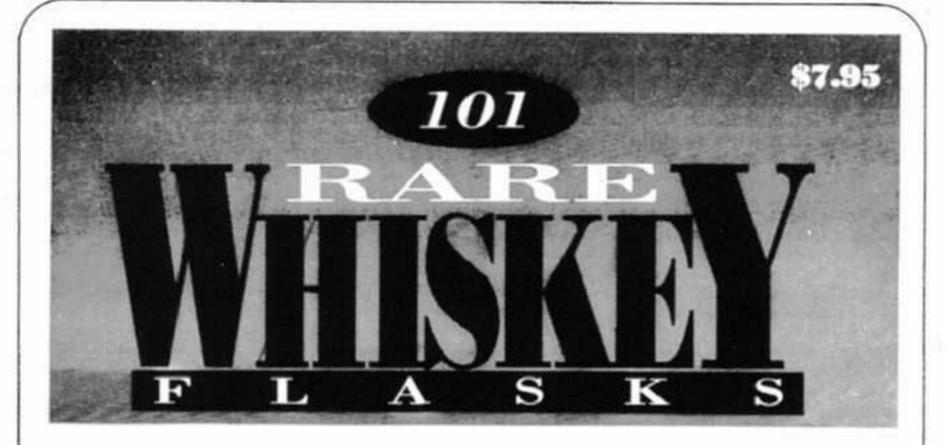
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