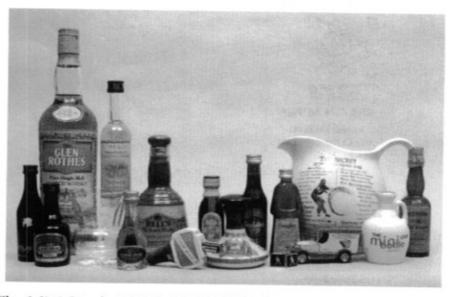
VOL. XXXII No. 183 No. 3 2005

THE MINIATURE MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR



miniclub Mottle



The Mini Bottle Club is THE Club if you are a collector of any form of miniature drink bottles, or associated go withs.

Club members receive a bi-monthly club magazine, which features all the latest news on what is available, plus articles on water jugs, ceramics, figurals, competitions, special offers and a club auction.

Membership details are available from the Membership Secretary:-Mr David Hamilton, 47 Burradon Road, Burradon, Cramlington, Northumberland NE23 7NF

minibottleclub@aol.com

Further information is available from the club website:

www.theminibottleclub.com



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Friday, April 21,2006

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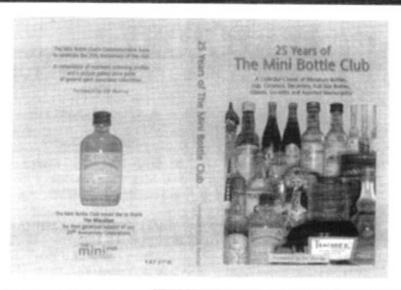
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Butch Jones-Table Chairman

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25 Years of The Mini Bottle Club Book





Our club book "25 Years of The Mini Bottle Club" was published in May 2004. The book contains articles on all aspects of our members collecting interests. Almost forty different collectors' have made some superb contributions into the 360 or so pages.

The book retails at £17.95 per copy.

They can be purchased at a special discount price of £12.95

Mailing charges
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Forward your payment made payable to **The Mini Bottle Club** to: Terry Robins

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Our Cover:

This time the two bottles on the cover are very, very special. As far as is known, these have never been shown before in any publication...and they're sixty-eight years old. These are the first two DeKuyper character bottles. More will be found on pages 41-43 and then again in our special issue next time.

FROM THE EDITOR:

As I write this, summer is coming to an end. Let's hope that fall will be a bit better. Right now Hurricane Katrina is bearing down on New Orleans which we can only hope will still be around in a couple of days. Mother Nature definitely has a cruel sense of humor.

Now I have some corrections to do. Since the Willburn's were no longer going to be involved with Ski Country, it was thought that Ski Country would be out of business. Not so. The company was sold to Collectors Triangle LTD. The primary owner of Collectors Triangle LTD is Lavon Daugherty of Sugarcreek, Ohio, This business then has a subsidiary on the main street of Sugarcreek Collectors Decanters and Steins with a museum displaying the decanters from the various manufacturers.

The company is considering a convention in 2006 and can be contacted by email at skicountrydecanters@yahoo.com
The address is Ski Country, P. O. Box 473, Sugarcreek, OH 44681-0473.

The next correction is really more of a modification. After thirty-four years, Signor Franco Zingales is stepping down from his leadership role with the club in Italy...Club delle Mignonnettes. For years you've seen the club's notices here in our pages, so now we must pass on the new club address: Club Mignonnettes, Via Gaibola, 25, 40068 San Lazzaro di Savena (Bo), Italy. The telephone from the U.S. is 011,39,51,6288460 and the email clubmignon@libero. it. The man

who is now the Secretary General of the club is Valerio Neri.

Last time we ran the Ouzounis catalog of all their ouzos and brandies. I've had a good many positive comments on that as lots of collectors were extremely interested in those bottles. Along with some earlier catalog parts from Southern Sales and Manny's in Florida, we've tried to show you some seldom seen bottles.

Now a word to the wise. I think most collectors have learned the rule: buy it when you see it...you may not find it again. Most of us learn that the hard way. We hem and haw about paying more than we think it's worth and then end up without the bottle because we never see it again. So there is a corollary to that rule and that is the proverbial trust but verify.

Recently we were in St. Petersburg, Russia where the guide took us to a wonderful shop to buy bottles. Then she asked if we'd like to visit the Vodka Museum. Naturally along we went and it was quite interesting. While there I asked what was in the next room. I was told "just a bar for tasting".

Upon returning home, I looked at the ticket from the Vodka Museum which I'd kept as a souvenir. On it was the web site address: www.vodkamuseum.ru Going to the site, I noticed you could click on an area called Souvenirs. This area showed all the minis and different souvenirs you could buy in the tasting bar at the museum. The scream could be heard two counties away. So, fellow collectors, always check...or trust, but verify!

from

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WHAT'S NEW



We're back but with the smallest selection we've had here in some time. However, this is really because many of the new items are shown elsewhere in other articles. We'll begin with a real mixed bag.

The Knickers Irish Cream Whiskey is a plastic bottle, but a must for you Irish collectors. It is really more of a liqueur than a whiskey but they've chosen to also accentuate the whiskey. What's even more interesting is the choice of names. Knickers doesn't quite mean the same here as it does "over

the pond". This one is available in Southern California.

Next to it is a most fascinating bottle. It would appear to be a regular, run-of-the-mill straight glass bottle, but look at that thin tapered neck. This is actually a blown glass piece from Italy called Mirto. Unfortunately you'll have to go to Italy to find this one.

The last in our set of three is Moulin Rouge Absinthe. Now normally this would go in an absinthe column but since this is the first one sold in North America.





I wanted to show it here. This is a great label with the green fairy shown at the bottom. It is made in Mexico and available in most of the tourist areas there.

Now we come to two bottles which are both available in the U.S. These are Navan and Imperia. Navan is a new product from Grand Marnier. It uses a vanilla bean from Madagascar. Since Grand Marnier doesn't issue anything unless it's a proven winner, I'd imagine that Navan is one very tasty product.





Imperia is a new Russian vodka made by the same people who brought us Russian Standart a few years back. This new bottle though is right up there in my own personal list for "best glass bottle of the year". Not only is it embossed but it is a hexagonal tapered bottle with flared bottom. And don't forget the closure. This is a real prize.

For you rum collectors, this is the new 10 Cane from Trinidad. It is a square or rectangular bottle with silk screen label. As you'll note



there is also a hanging tag label.

We'll finish up with two brand new whiskies. The Glen Breton is just available and it is "Canada's Only Single Malt Whisky". We obviously don't get nearly enough Canadian whiskies any more, so this is a most welcome addition. The Locke's is their Single Malt Irish Whiskey. The only unfortunate thing about this bottle is that it's plastic!

Hope you enjoyed seeing these new ones. -DMS--

PERU



This set of three humorous fellows is from Peru and another group of well done ceramics. They come in this wooden box which makes a very nice presentation.

The problem with the bottles from Peru is obtaining them. However, you can solve that problem by visiting the bottle show there next February. Collectors from all over the Americas will be there. You'll be able to find collectors with bottles to swap and sell from North, South, and possibly even Central America. We hope to have details in the next issue for you.

TEQUILA



A friend of mine recently took a trip to Baja California. Before he left, he asked if I was looking for anything in particular. I answered, "Anything I don't have". Naturally he replied with the familiar, "you mean there's something you don't have?" I was serious and so was he as a small wall full of tequilas represents all there must be to most people. However, "anything I don't have" turned out to be the best

thing I could have said to him. He returned with eight of the nine bottles shown here.

To get it out of the way, the one that is available here is a rather nice Dos Manos Reposado Reserva. What differentiates this reposado from their other one is that this one is 100% de agave while the other is what is called a mixto. Now on to the others.

What I really enjoyed about the







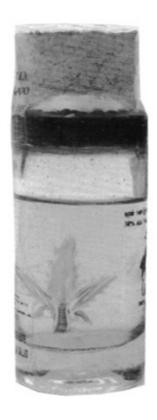
selection he brought back was all the differences in the bottles. (What I didn't enjoy that he brought back was the bill. The cost of these in Mexico is probably higher than they would be if they were sold here.) Possibly the most common is the square or rectangular Honorable Reposado. Honorable makes a number of large bottles available here in the U.S. but this is the first mini I've seen.

The short squat bottles are again available here in California in the large size, but not the minis. Con Orgullo is an anejo while El Amo is a reposado. Nothing fancy about them, just nice little squat bottles.

Moving on we come to the short square or rectangular Jarro Viejo bottles. These are respectively reposado and oro (gold). The labels are just okay; however, the bottles themselves are very nice (almost) pebbled glass. They stand less than four inches tall.

Now that we're talking height though, take a look at the Corralejo Reposado. This is a larger (100ml) bottle but quite different from the one which has been sold for years





and is well known to most collectors. It is a soft blue color and stands approximately 6 inches tall. The edges are ridged thus adding a very nice touch of workmanship.

Now we come to the proverbial last is best. This group of four are all Cristeros. They appear to be blown glass shot glasses into which a little blown glass "something or other" has been attached. I don't know how many are in this series but I do know there are more as my friend kept one with a little chili pepper in it.

The ones shown here are a whale and a marijuana leaf. These bottles might also be noteworthy because they just possibly could be using the largest corks used in bottles. Previously we have shown you other versions of these Cristeros blown glass bottles and we'll continue to do so as they are unearthed.

As is usual, all the bottles brought from Baja contain 38% alcohol by volume as opposed to our normal 40%.

MINI WORLD







Thought this might be a good time to present to you some new whiskies. Since there really weren't enough to make an article out of any little group, I decided to do one big group. In this baker's dozen, the "e's" definitely have it, so let's look at the American one here.

This is the Michter's Single Barrel Bourbon which is issued at 47.2% alcohol by volume or 94.4 proof. That's a bourbon with a bit of a bite. It's also a very nice variation from the Michter's Whiskey and the Michter's Rye. If you add in all the old Michter's bottles when they were under different management and in a different place, you've got a special little collection all its own.





The remaining twelve are now divided into those from Scotland and those from Canada. Let's look at the scotch first. The least of the lot is the little plastic James Martin's V.V.O. The actual blend itself is a good little whisky, but wasn't it much nicer when it was in glass!

The set of six scotches are all obviously from the same company. but who would that be? It's called the Scotch Malt Cask Selection but lists no bottler or company. The bottles were sent from Japan so it could have possibly been Japanese company behind Anyway, there are two but..... Island bottlings, Island Classic at 57% and Classic of Islay at 58%. Since the other bottles contents are all named (Aberlour, Glen Rothes, Pulteney, and Dalmore), you'd think that the two island whiskies would be identified.

The Glen Turner 18 year old is a well done bottle with good label and design; however, for me it's the new Chivas that's the winner in the scotch category. This is quite an



improvement in the label over the last 18 year old. This one has brightened the coloring and added "Gold Signature" below the 18. It is now available in the U.S. as well as the U.K.

The last three bottles are from Canada and all came from the extended efforts of Brian de Athe in Brian is an absolute Ontario. bulldog with the companies in Canada. When he hears of a new bottle from any distillery, he makes the time and effort to get them. So here, thanks to Brian are three of the latest from Canada. I'd surely like to try the first one (ah, smooth you say, but a bit sweet) but I'll have to say the Centennial 10yo is surely a nice one. It's glass while the other two are plastics. And, that's it for whiskies this time!



contd. from p. 22

hold a whisky up to the light and comment on the marvelous colour you're actually commenting on the use of the food colouring used.

The Springbank Cuvee is quite an interesting one. This is a mixture (blend?) of two casks from 1965 and 1993 One cask was sherry and the other bourbon. This was issued mid summer last year. The two Prestonfields are newer labels in this series and they may always be counted on to be extremely colorful.

Now the Macallans are a mixed lot. The 10 year old is the new label for the sherry finish whisky sold here in the U.K. and the 12 year old Fine Oak is a new one for us. The other 12 year old is for the States and that contains the traditional sherry cask Macallan. This is a 43% while the one issued in Japan

is a 40%. I know those of you who are purists like to know these sorts of things.

Unfortunately I couldn't get to the St. Louis show this year so all my best to my friends who I missed.

NEXT TIME

FAVORITE BOTTLES

ABSINTHE



It looks as if we have gone crazy with absinthe bottles this time. Indeed there are sixteen of them here for your enjoyment. Some are quite attractive and interesting while others are a bit on the "blah" side. We'll begin with the two plastic ones so we can get those out of the way.

The only plastic bottles are the Serpis which would appear to be exactly the same...if you're looking at them in a black and white picture. In color, the bottle on the left has a blue Serpis background while the right one has a red Serpis background. Both are 55% alc. or 110 proof and 50ml. They are from Spain by way of Germany.

To their right is another example of L'Emercier. This one is different from previous ones shown because of the Amer toward the bottom of the label. It has 3cl contents at 72% alc. or 144 proof! The last bottle which has the larger ABSINTH toward the top is from the Czech Republic. It is the most





On Tabilat unbescheider und un Abstigin kommung seiner all ancheten Kinkels kin von forer hatherskallischen Leiten, gesign an mit zu gewine Etwas zu versiehten.







interesting of this group by far and comes in at 70% alc. with 0,041 contents.

Next we have the Versinthe La Blanche. We've shown you this brand before but not this bottle...usually it is a tall round bottle. It is somewhat larger at 100ml but its contents still pack a wallop at 114 proof or 57%.

To the right of the Versinthe is the first of two bottles by Havel. This is the ceramic one which lists its contents as 60% (120 proof) but doesn't give us a size. It comes from the Czech Republic.

Now we have the one which separates the men from the boys. This is the L'Extreme d'Absente...note the liquid dropper which is part of the screw cap. It is only 70%; however, it has the most of the chemical which makes absinthe what it is. From France, this one also comes in a nice tube. Accompanying it is the other Havel,



this time in glass. Once again it is 60% alc. and doesn't list its size.

We're over half way though a great group of bottles and next on the list is the Libertine with its excellent picture label. Another bottle from France, it is 5cl at 55%. Along with it is another of the tall bottles and this one is Sina. As with many of the others, it's 55% but only 40ml and comes to us from Germany.

Continuing on, we find Abtshof 66. It isn't difficult to figure out what the 66 stands for in the name. This is another German bottle. It's companion to our right is Trul 1792 which is a 70% bottle from the Czech Republic. And finally, in this little group of three is a different version of Absenta Tunel, a well known brand from Spain. This label, however, is from an artist's series. Wonder if there are now others in the series.

We come now to the last group. To begin we have Cami, a small 30ml, 55% bottle from the Czech Republic. This is possibly one of the most plain bottles of all the known absinthe miniatures. Next to it is a Spanish bottle, Deva. This is a 0,04l bottle with contents at 50%. The last in our series is the Tabu which has been shown previously but in a smaller 20ml size. This is a German bottle with a wonderfully contorted face on the label. It's worth it just for the label alone!

Hope you liked our extended look at recent absinthe bottles.

SCOTCH

David Maund



I have nine new bottles to show you this time and all have one or more interesting characteristics. I'll begin with the one which really doesn't seem to go along with the others. This is the R & B Scotch. It is different from all the others in that it comes from Germany. Not too smart a label in my opinion also.

The two bottles which accompany the R & B are special bottlings from the Blackadder Co.

of Edinburgh. Neither has an actual brand mentioned on the label but simply represent two of Scotland's whisky areas. The Auld Edinburgh name I'm told will be used on other bottles. What makes these two rather special is that the whisky in them has not been through the chill filtration process and no caramel colouring has been added. So many times when you

contd. on p. 17





Boozeville

It's party time! Everyone in Boozeville is in the party mood and soon the joint will really be jumpin'. You'll note that Chester (he of the bald pate and humungous ears) is already opening his third bottle of the evening...and he's just getting started.

Chester is one of the ones who likes to put a lampshade on his head later in the evening, when there are even more bottles at his feet. However, others are a bit more staid in their approach to having a



good time and our dancers are already tripping the light fantastic with their version of the Castle Walk. Surely you remember the Castle Walk, made famous by Irene and Vernon Castle.

Now to tell you a bit about our party goers, Chester is a rather unique fellow. He's not brown or blue but in a gray glaze. He also is not nearly as old as our dancers. The late 1930's would be a good guesstimate for this S & V piece. A few were brought in at that time and filled by a liquor company. They were from the same original molds but had a rather strange

glaze in the porcelain. A large Scotsman with his dog is also known in what we might consider a series of two!

The Castle Walk is one of the seldom seen dancers bottles. There is also another bottle which at times has been labeled Castle Walk where the two dancers are completely entwined and her head is against his shoulder. However, no matter which version you have, it is an extremely good bottle.

So ta-ta to our merry partygoers, we can bid them adieu but they'll live on in our collections for decades to come.

MELO'S MINIS

MIKE OLSON



Oh, those great Chicago bottles from the 1930's. I have covered most of them in previous articles and the Lionel Whiskeys are still among my favorite bottles. This time we'll look at some nice variations from the Paramount Distilling Corp.

Paramount used many types of glass bottles with the four most common being a short flask, a taller thin flask, a cork topped flask and a pebble-embossed flask. Some of the brands can be found on more than one type of bottle.

Anyway, the three brands I am showing this time are Four Seasons, Old William Henry, and Daniel Webster. All of these bottles are different and in no particular order as I photographed them at different times. The Daniel Webster in the silver foil label and the Four Seasons in the gold foil label printed in green would be among the rarer variations of these brands.

Finally I just acquired the Old Buckly Ben hip flask by Lionel which was on the top of my want list. Now I am only missing the Highwood of all the known Lionel Whiskey brands. If I know anything about this hobby, it is there are probably more brands out there which I have never seen.

Until next time M E L O





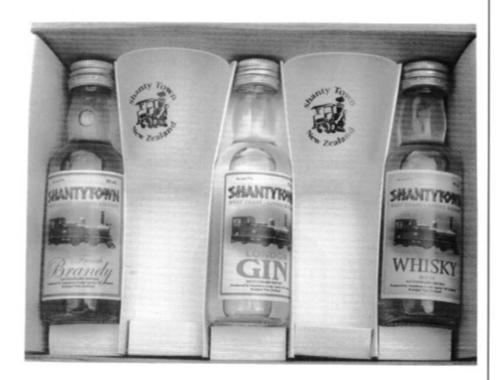






from

NEW ZEALAND



Since it's been a couple of issues from the last time any bottles from New Zealand were featured, it's definitely time. This boxed set is from Southern Grain Distillers and was a special order for Shanty Town. A guess is that Shanty Town is a place where you can see old locomotives or some type of theme park; however, this set of three (brandy, gin, and whisky) will do

nicely for us.

The club in New Zealand (see the Club Directory) will celebrate its 25th Anniversary next year and Southern Grain Distillers will issue a five bottle set to commemorate it. If you're interested, write the club. They are very helpful and you can add some nice bottles to your collection.







A group of six different scotches are featured this time. They are from the 1930's to the 1980's. We begin with the Sandeman Scotch Whisky from the 1930's. This brown flask is concave on the back and is filled with 70 proof scotch. As you can see, the cap has gold foil around it.









In the second picture we have Dunfife Blended Scotch. The bottle is a brown flask. This whisky was distilled and blended by J.S. Smith Druce & Co., Glasgow & London. Next is MacDonald's Glencoe Pure Highland Malt Scotch Whisky. This clear flask contains 8 year old at 57% alc/vol malt scotch.

The next bottle is a Glenfarclas-Glenlivet. This clear flask is filled with 8 year old unblended malt scotch whisky at 70 proof. Moving on we have the Excalibur Blended Scotch Whisky. The green flask is filled with 4cl of 43% GL scotch. This one is an Italian import.

The last miniature is Glen Royal Fine Old Scotch Whisky. The clear flask contains scotch which was specially blended and bottled by the Glenrinnes Blending Co., Glasgow, Scotland.

'Til next time. -B.J.-

COGNAC



There hasn't been much new on the cognac area for ages, so it was with great delight when I was given these two. These extremely well embossed bottles contain products from Baron Henri de Cressac. They are V.S. and X.O. This is one of the very few times I've ever seen the

letters actually spelled out: <u>Very Special and Extra Old.</u>

The bottles are somewhat taller than usual, but that only adds to their charm. So be on the lookout for this new brand. There might even be a V.S.O.P. to look for, too!

-V.V.-

SEGUINOT



Sometimes you find bottles in the strangest places. In the northern California town of Burlingame, there is a little newspaper/magazine shop on the main street. Across from the magazines were some large bottles of cognac.

I asked if they were for sale and

was told that the store did indeed have a liquor license but handled only a few fancy items. There was one miniature in the store and this is shown here. It is the molded glass Eiffel Tower or Tour de Eiffel issued with Seguinot & Fils X.O. Cognac. Now the store has no miniatures for sale!

VODKA

by JOHN SULLIVAN



It's the proverbial baker's dozen once again...thirteen interesting vodkas from around the world. And, this time, I really do mean from around the world. Europe, North and South America, but no Asia. Let's look at the bottles from the U.S.A. first.

There are three. Any guesses? Colorado would be an excellent guess. This plastic bottle is made for a chain store in Colorado and that's the only place in the world you'll find it! Nice picture on the front, but it's still plastic. Our other plastic one is Yazi Ginger Vodka which is produced up in Oregon. This has a little Chinese symbol in the middle of the "A" in Yazi, but that's about the only interesting point about this bottle. However, the third of the home grown bottles is a beauty. This is the Skyy 90. Skyy previously has only done a series of plastic bottles so nothing will prepare for this



beauty. It's a completely new mold unused by anyone before. This has had a slow roll out but you should start to see it in other states soon.

Before we leave North America, we've got to look at Rain from our neighbor, Canada. Many of you will have Rain as a plastic, rather mediocre bottle. But this is excellent from it's clever "running" label to the bottle shape to the stopper. A complete winner!

Now we can go south. The

distance may be far, but the stay won't be. Only one bottle from Chile and that would be Ustinov lemon-flavored. Not your normal, garden variety bottle and a good label to boot. But so much for South America.

That leaves the remaining eight bottles for Europe. All are glass except for our first one Red Square Hot Shot. This product is from the U.K. and appears to be in an aluminum (or should I say



aluminium?) bottle. In any case, it's a mixture of vodka and a highly caffinated energy drink. All you Red Bull and Vodka drinkers, take note.

Two more bottles from the U.K. These are Striker's Bottoms Up which is a specialty label done for last Christmas. Get out your magnifying glasses if you want to see the two "hotties" bearing their bums. You couldn't sell that one here.

Our last bottle from the U.K. is Armadale from Scotland. A very attractive bottle with a bit of plaid on the label. This one has a clean, elegant look about it.

Traveling a bit to the east from Scotland, we come to The Netherlands which is precisely where the Vox Green Apple comes from. It's a new flavor from Vox but still the same good bottle.

Going still further east, we come to Germany and a set of three



Kosher vodkas. These are Anatevka, Purim, and Jon Teff. Those familiar with Fiddler on the Roof will know the name Anatevka. Purim speaks for itself (if you don't know, look it up) and Jon Teff is said to have a bit of the zubrowka or buffalo grass about it, although the label doesn't mention it.

Finally we come to our last bottle as our journey has come to an end in Poland. This is the home of 'Sliva. The name might be familiar to some of you as it's been shown in another guise; however, this one is the winner with its see through label and special stopper.

So that's it for this time. Next issue we'll have a new Monopolowa, a set from Canada, the fantastic new Imperia, and a good many more.

Phonetically...dasvidanya!

TOKAJI



Several months back I was alerted by a friend to check out some bottles on e-bay. These were some Hungarian blown glass pieces that someone in Hungary was selling and had been doing so for some time. In fact, it appears that enough people had them that I was able to win many of these bottles at their opening bid.

Only one of the bottles is not a true miniature in that it holds 200ml. This is the bottle on its side with the two glass legs and the sailing ship inside. It is rather difficult to make out the entire ship in the picture, but at least you can get the idea.

The bottle with the base and the round, bulbous center also contains a blown glass ship. This is my favorite of the group as it is so beautifully done. It is a 100ml bottle.

The tallest bottle of the six is another 100ml but this one has a small cluster of grapes blown into the glass. And, the glass has been





twisted to create a most unique look. It's companion, the tulip, is one of two (I didn't win everything) and is quite reminiscent of the old Bols blown glass tulip from the 1950's and early '60's. It is a 50ml bottle.

The remaining two bottles both feature grape clusters. One is a cluster on a pedestal while the other is a cluster again blown into the bottle while the bottle itself stands on a pedestal. These two are 50ml bottles.

I have not mentioned the

contents of any of these bottles because they all contain...wine. Yes, I know, you didn't believe a wine miniature could be interesting and...neither did I. However, we were certainly wrong. The main wine used is the Hungarian Tokaji which has been making a comeback on the world market. In fact, Wine Spectator magazine recently did a large section of one of their issues on tokaji. But no matter the contents, these are excellent bottles. So...get thee to e-bay!

DEKUYPER

Part I

This is the beginning of our two part look at the character bottles done by DeKuyper in the late 1930's. These bottles have had only two owners in all that time. The first was Artie Samish, known at one time as the liquor czar of California because it was told, he could make anything happen if he wanted it to. He had these bottles for twenty-nine years and then they passed into the hands of Harry Goetz, a well known Northern California collector. For the last thirty-nine years, Harry has had them under lock and key and no photos were ever taken. Now for the first time you'll see these humorous and delightful bottles.

Regardless of the size, they were still considered miniatures because of the amount of liqueur they contained. The lady skier shown here is over ten inches tall without her wooden skis. All contents were liqueurs. On the next two pages you'll see what was considered the Chinese set...two boys and two girls. Next time many more of the Hummel-like figurals which are on the cover.







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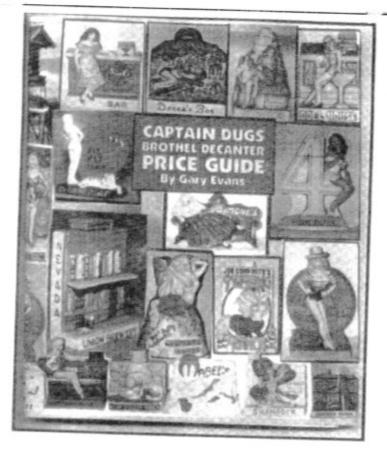
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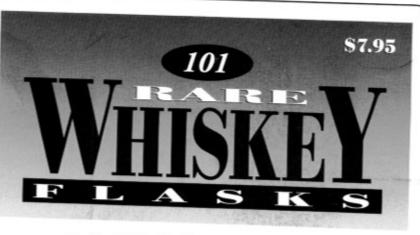
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