

VOL. XXXII
No. 184

No. 4
2005

THE MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR



THE mini club bottle



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

MMBC SHOW



SCORE BIG ON MINIS

At the 27th Annual Midwest
Miniature Bottle Collectors Show

April 21-23, 2006

St. Louis, Missouri

MIDWEST MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTORS

27th ANNUAL SHOW

April 22, 22, 23, 2006

SHERATON PLAZA HOTEL

900 West Port Plaza
St Louis MO 63146

Phone (314) 434-5010
or 1-800-822-3535

MMBC Room Rate Until March 31, 2006

\$91.00 + Tax

Free Shuttle From Hotel

Friday, April 21, 2006

5:00 PM Member's Sandwich Buffet

6:00 PM Meeting

7:00 PM Member's Consignment Auction

Location: 12th Floor Tower Room

Saturday, April 22, 2006

Show Hours 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Hospitality Suite Open After The Show

Admission Free

Sunday, April 23, 2006

Show Hours 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

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

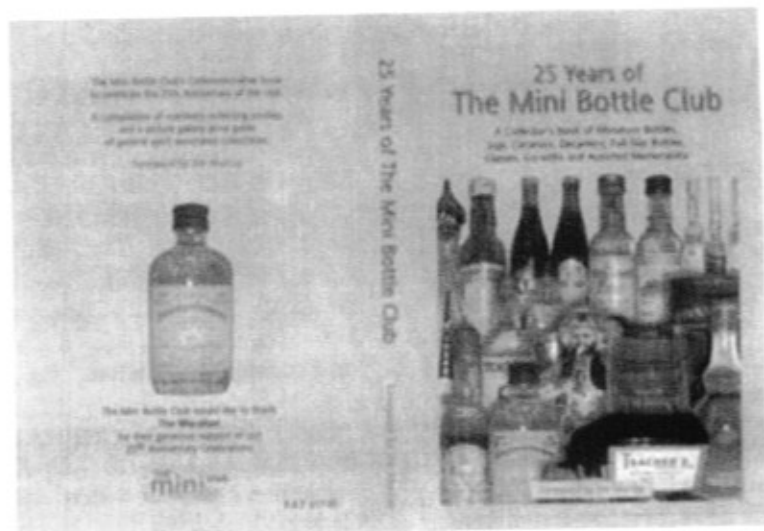
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25 Years of The Mini Bottle Club Book



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

UK £3

Europe £4.50

Rest of the World £7

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

"Robins Nest", Backboath Cottage, Nr. Forfar, Angus, Scotland. DD8 2SS

MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

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Our Cover:

The four bottles on the cover are recent issues from Luctor, Int. of their Vincent Van Gogh brand. These excellent bottles take front row center in any vodka collection. Since these were photographed a special holiday gift pack has been released with eight new bottles all similar to the Espresso or number one bottle. How many available varieties of these excellent bottles are there? Possibly one day we'll be able to answer that question.

FROM THE EDITOR:

HONOR ROLL

I've always considered eleven a lucky number. When I looked through the entire list of subscribers, I found exactly eleven who have subscribed from the very first issue which came out in December of 1973. So now in our last issue, I would like to say a big thanks to these people especially as well as to all our other subscribers down through the thirty-two years. Here are the eleven:

Harry Ford	Arizona
Mike Jura	California
Art Preston	California
Ethel Robinson	Texas
Darlene Sandstedt	Oregon
Bob Snyder	Texas
Alfredo Spinelli	Florida
John Sullivan	California
Marion Triffon	Nevada
Vic Visalli	N. Jersey
Lee Weiss	California

And yes, you read that first paragraph correctly. This is the last issue of the MBC as we know it. A few of you realized something was different when the subscription notices arrived and the price was prorated so that all but about 5% of the subscribers would end with issue number 184. Those whose subscription goes beyond that number will be taken care of.

If you're wondering why after all these years I decided to stop now, there are several reasons. It's getting more and more difficult to fill all these pages, many of us are a bit longer in the tooth now and are selling off collections, and I didn't

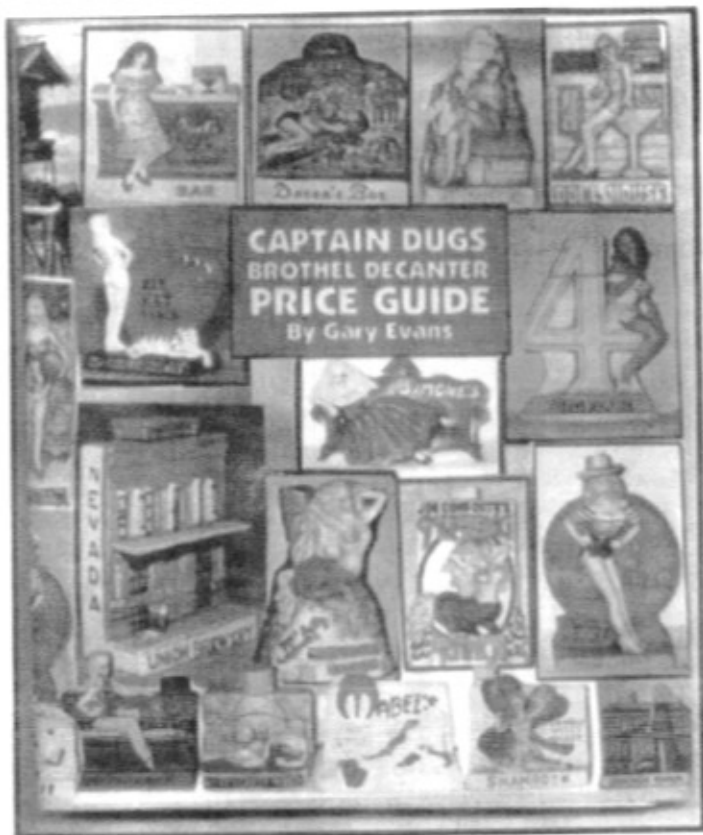
want to have to use a walker to get to my computer! One more reason is that with the cost of gasoline now the post office will be crying for more money and that means rates will probably be going up even more than scheduled.

Now, here's what is going to happen. The Miniature Bottle Club in The United Kingdom is going to be providing the extra issues to all of those whose subscriptions are not up yet. Then hopefully you'll want to join their club so that you'll receive their publication. For all of you who aren't members, a copy of their most recent magazine is enclosed with this issue. I'll be writing some articles for them, particularly a *What's New in the U.S.A.* each time. The UK MBC is published six times a year and you'll note there is some color which because of costs we've only done a few times down through the years.

Next, there is the matter of our blog. Yes, having joined the higher technology of the 21st century, there is now a blog. You can find it at <http://bottlecollecting.blogspot.com> Articles will be posted from time to time and we'll keep you abreast of new bottles as they come out...along with their local prices.

Change is inevitable and I think this is a most positive turn. I hope you do, too.

Keep thinking small....DMS



Front & back cover in color, inside black and white. Book has very interesting stories about Dug Pickering, original owner and creator of Dug's bottles, as well as the history of the Nevada brothels the bottles are modeled after. This book is a must for all collectors of the brothel series bottles.

**The Captain Dugs Brothel Decanter Price Guide
by Gary Evans, March 2004**

Price : \$13.00 U.S.

U.S. Shipping : \$2.35

Mail to: Gary Evans

3806 Union Road #211

Cheektowaga NY 14225

**For international shipping information, please email :
garyevans4@aol.com**

WHAT'S NEW



There's more here than usual and I thought it would be good to finish up with as many bottles as possible...so you're looking at a total of seventeen new minis! Obviously you're telling yourself that there must be some good new American bottles here, right? Wrong! Not a one. Many have been imported, but nothing that is produced here. Sure seems a shame.

Let's begin with those from farthest away which are not imported. The number one bottle in this category is the Amrut Single Malt Whisky from India. Most of the whiskies from India are plastic but this one is glass and comes in

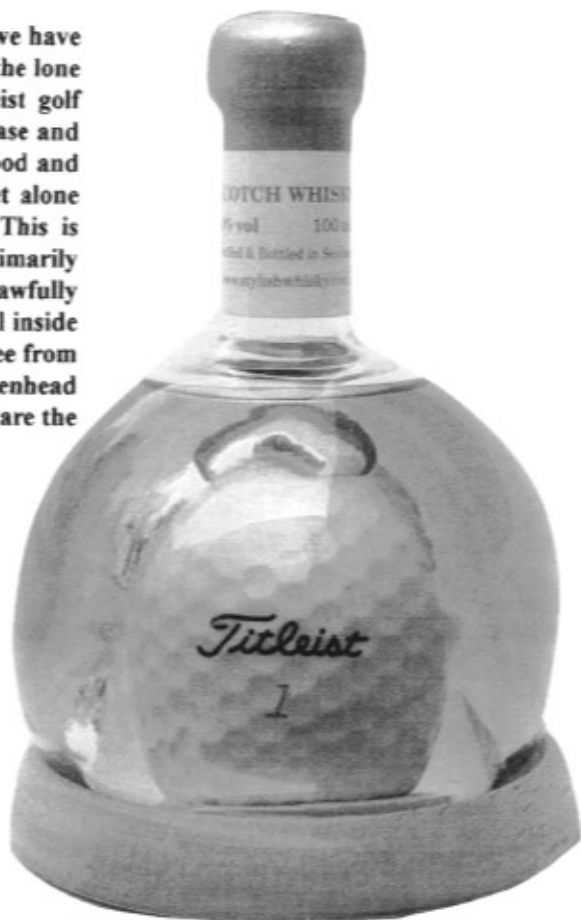
its own tube. Then from Germany we have three bottles: 77.7 Absinth, Ambiente Irish Malt Whisky, and Lord Nelson's Rum. Since there wasn't enough for an absinthe column this time, the 77.7 (which means it's 155.4 proof) is included here. The Ambiente is most interesting because you don't often see an Irish whisky made specifically for another country. The Lord Nelson's rum is a low proof one but the label is very nice.

And speaking of Ireland, we have two Celtic products. These are the Poteen (is it really moonshine?) and the wigs. Now normally we do think of celtic as representing Ireland but these bottles are from



Wales. Both are 100ml but do not seem nearly as large as many 50ml bottles.

Moving up from Wales, we have four from Scotland. This is the lone scotch bottle with the Titleist golf ball inside the bottle. The base and stopper of this bottle are wood and it's something any golfer, let alone mini collector, would like. This is also a 100ml bottle primarily because it would be awfully difficult to get a real golf ball inside a 50ml bottle. The other three from Scotland is the set of Cadenhead rums. As you'll notice, these are the



5 year old Cuban, the 12 year old Demerara, and the 15 year old from Guyana. Cadenhead is usually thought of with scotches; however, the company has been involved with rum for years and years. In fact I personally have a mini flask of their green label from the 1950's.

We'll jump the pond now and go to Canada for two new ones. The Vineland Ice Wine is another in the on going group of ice wines produced by various wineries. If you've never sampled ice wine, it's a treat. It's companion in the

picture is the Pinnacle which is an Ice Cider, hence the apple on the label. I find this fascinating because here is a completely new creation and note how well packaged it is. Both of these bottles were found by Harland Johnson in Alberta.

We only have five bottles left and happily they are all sold here in the U.S. The most attractive of these is the Voyant Chai Cream, This is another low proof liqueur but elegantly presented. The color of the bottle is a very distinctive reddish orange. The most





interesting shape award goes to Extase XO Liqueur d'Orange with X.O. Cognac. Everyone always tries to equal or better the flavor of Grand Marnier, but no one succeeds.

The last three bottles are nothing to write home about, but two are interesting. The Soho Lychee is a new bottle with a new label. If you can have hazelnut liqueur, why not lychee nut? Pitu is the Brazilian Cachaca with the crayfish or lobster on the label and

that certainly gives it some interest. There are only a couple of cachaca minis available in the U.S. but there are scores of them in Brazil.

We have left the worst for last...simply because it's plastic and totally generic. I guess Canadian Mist decided they needed a label change to increase sales but if the label got any less "esoteric" it would be a bar code.

So ends our look at some recent world wide acquisitions. Now, get out there and find them!

Vincent

VAN GOGH



The bottles on the cover this time are all the completely new Vincent Van Gogh bottles. Pictured above are the variations of ones released previously. The biggest difference between these and the initial bottles is that they were frosted all the way to the top. There are more minute differences, too; however, you really have to place the old and new bottles side by side

to see the differences.

From left to right, the bottles are the gin, Wild Appel vodka, raspberry vodka, and Dutch Chocolate vodka. The pictures through the "window pane label" are extremely clear this time as evidenced by both the raspberry and the Dutch chocolate.

Will there be more flavors in the future? Time will tell.

MINI WORLD

Okay, after almost thirty-two years of issues and fifty years of collecting, how do you pull out the bottles you like the most? I went through not only back issues, but looked at the shelves, and in the boxes where some are stored. With glass it was impossible. You can look at some of the beauties of the 1930's...particularly Zwacks...or you could look at some of the very recent tequilas and vodkas. And, is it the bottle or the label? Some real dud bottles have beautiful labels. So, I'm not even trying with glass.

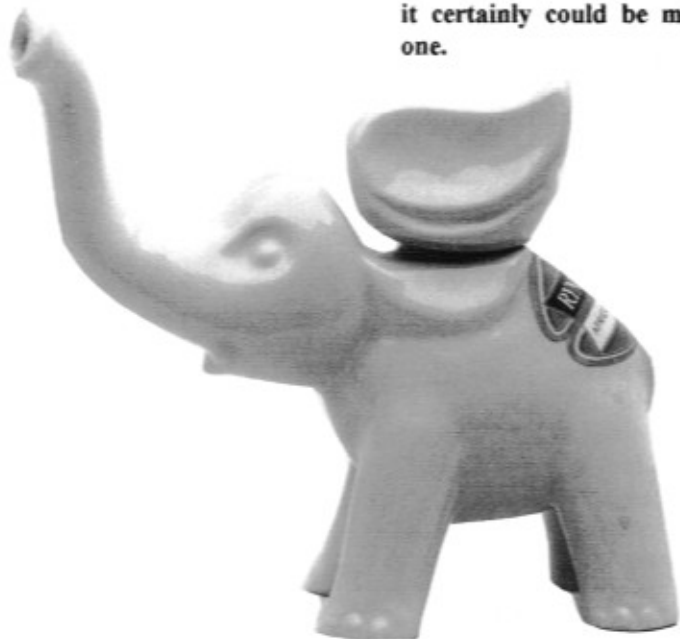
With ceramics it wasn't really that difficult. In the Schafer & Vater bottles, the rabbit won over the Moon/Devil and you can see him here. I'm not going to give any criteria of what I think makes a bottle really special; it's all in the eye of the beholder.

Cutting it down to just a few bottles was the most difficult part. Rynbendes have always been a favorite, so here is the Pink Elephant...the beloved pachyderm of the DT's. Those aren't wings, they are his ears and they make up the stopper.





Next is the Toby jug, Mr. Winkle from a Dickens series done by an English company approximately fifty years ago. He has a great face. This is not a Royal Doulton bottle but the workmanship is good enough that it certainly could be mistaken for one.

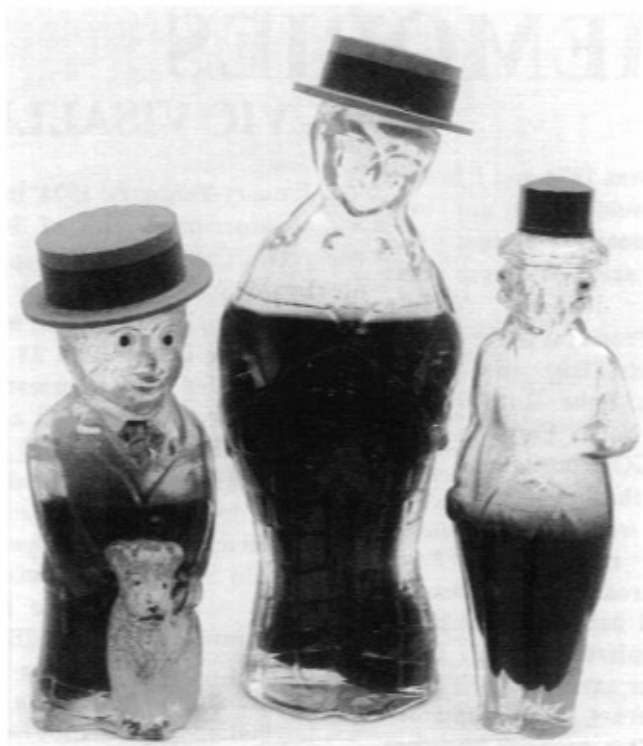




I would practically be unpatriotic if I didn't include the Bols Uncle Sam. In one of the cruel ironies of collecting, this bottle was never sold in the U.S. because at that time we had a law which stated neither the flag nor Uncle Sam were considered proper studies for alcohol containers. Don't even know if this one would get approved today.

In the ceramic world, we have

not only figurals but also jugs, urns, and you-name-it. These two happen to be my favorites. The Hawkers Sloe Gin from James Hawker & Co. of Plymouth, England depicts the Mayflower on its 1620 voyage. The bottle itself was made by the well known Spode company. There is a companion piece to this from 1957 which contained Hawker's Mayflower Sherry and was produced to



commemorate the sailing of Mayflower II.

The other jug is the Glenfiddich 50 year old which was sold in Japan and England. I could have easily chosen any one of the jugs containing the 18 year old malt scotch; however, this one was difficult not to remember because it was so darn expensive! But that doesn't mean I like it any better than the Hawker's which cost me all of \$2.

Now earlier I didn't completely mean no glass at all. These three molded glass pieces from the 1930's I call The Entertainers. They are from left...Maurice Chevalier, W. C. Fields, and Charlie Chaplin. The Chevalier was issued by Garnier while the other two bottles came out in Mexico...doubtless with no rights secured to make them.

So there are my favorites. Have you thought about yours?

MINIATURE MEMORIES

by VIC VISALLI

The year was 1974 and I'm sure all of us could recall our own memorable moments of that year. A political scenario arose that resulted in Richard Nixon's resigning as President of the United States. Sports fans saw Hank Aaron break Babe Ruth's home run record, North Carolina State won the ACC Tournament over Maryland in thrilling overtime, and Secretariat won the Kentucky Derby at a record pace. Peter Benchley introduced avid readers to *Jaws*, and baby-boomers tuned into the premiere of *Happy Days*. The computer savvy saw the birth of the Internet...and miniature bottle collectors received the first issue of The Miniature Bottle Collector!

Following in the footprints established by the Miniature Bottle Mart, the Bottles in Miniature series and the Guide to Miniature Bottles, The Miniature Bottle Collector made its debut with the

January-February 1974 issue with a subscription rate of \$6.00 per year. The editor and publisher, David Spaid, caught our eye and whet our already kindled interest in miniature bottles with 28 pages of well-written and informative text. This first issue featured articles of Dennis Kowalski on *Ski Country*, *Sarandreas* by David Spaid, *Small Suds* by Jeanne Fugina, Tony Natelli on *Fascinating Figurals*, and Alfredo Spinelli's *Argentine Minis*. Mary Aiken asked the question, "Say, just what is this MBC?" and Melville A. Spaid, the editor's father, shared with us a glorious fascination for Chinese snuff bottles.

This collector immediately responded to the featured ad for Times Square Liquors and Chip's Nips (Florence and I immediately planned a trip to Massachusetts) and couldn't wait until the next bi-monthly issue of the MBC.

CHIPS
NIPS

HALO

JON SOL

For more than three decades, The Miniature Bottle Collector has been a steadfast source of information and inspiration to collectors. The editorials are dedicated totally to that initial theory of the magazine being "an investment in knowledge". Whether the reader was a seasoned collector or a novice, the MBC enlightened us all with the announcements of happenings throughout the mini world, new arrivals, old finds and general messages colored with a true love and dedication to the hobby. Businesslike overtones were absent, and opportunities to further the hobby and our relationships as collectors were abundant. The aura created by the MBC enticed collectors to also write about their collections and experiences.

Miniature bottle collecting has seen many changes over these years. We have gained some new friends and, regrettably, lost some from our past. The Internet has

created a new environment of buying and selling, and some minis exist that we never thought possible. The introduction of more specialty minis, such as blown glass tequilas, has given collectors the option of becoming more specialized. Though the physical format of the MBC has changed, its stated premise of being an "investment in knowledge" hasn't. With this last issue, the MBC moves into a historic place of reference, providing a mechanism for our hobby to continue. It is a place occupied by very few.

The MBC introduced collectors to mini bottle clubs and an expanded number of new members. Not only did it bring a world of minis to our door, it brought us a world of collectors. Now I hope that you will take the time to salute one of the cornerstones of our hobby, The Miniature Bottle Collector and its editor and publisher, long-time collector, David Spaid.

The first MBC editorial described a need for a diversified format of presentation for the miniature bottle enthusiast and that "with the appearance of this very first issue that void has been filled." We all can be certain that the MBC has done more than fill that void. --V.V.--

S&S Imports

DART



TREASURES OF THE PAST

by
BUTCH JONES



When David made me aware this would be the last issue, it took some time to get over the shock before I could decide what to feature in this issue.

Before I do, I would be remiss if I didn't take a couple of lines to say a BIG, not mini, THANK YOU to David Spaid for the past 32 years of the MBC. He is truly the person, in my mind, who has done the most to further the miniature bottle collecting hobby. Certainly this is true since I have been collecting. It

takes a very dedicated and outstanding publisher/collector to have continued for so long. I will truly miss the MBC!

Now, I have selected several representative pieces of my favorite minis to share. My only regret is that my personal collection is not completely up for display after my retirement and move to Oklahoma City. As a result, I cannot show my favorite blown glass minis.

In the first group we have four super whiskey miniatures from the



1920's/30'd. The first is the Sam Henderson B & E Co. Rye Whiskey. This rye was produced by The Benedict & Eberle Co. Of Pittsburgh PA. The next three are "hip" flasks from the 1930's. These great bottles were literally meant to be carried in the hip pocket. The John Smith Straight Whiskey is a clear flask and contains 1 1/2 oz of 90 proof whiskey. It was prepared by Lionel Distilled Products of Chicago IO. The next was also produced by Lionel Distilled Products Inc. and is the Old Buckly Ben. It has a great gold foil label, is

a clear flask, and is filled with 1/10 pint straight bourbon whiskey. Finally, the Daniel Webster Straight Bourbon Whiskey is filled with 100 proof bourbon. Paramount Liquor Company, Chicago IL prepared this one.

The next group is of molded glass produced by P. Garnier of France in the late 1930's. Garnier has been producing bottles since the late 2800's and these minis were first done as perfumes. You still see many of them in antique stores and shows without labels and sold as perfumes. The first is a boy in top





hat. Next is the boy with the lunch box. The third is an unusual dog with a large mouth. Next is "Maurice Chevalier" with dog. There is the boy with soccer ball and finally, boy with flowers.

I really enjoy collecting miniature figurals from the 1930's-1950's. In my opinion, these minis are some of the best produced. Companies such as Manhattan, Garnier, Southern Sales, Miniature Specialties, and Rynbende made some of the best minis during this period.

The three "hand-painted" miniatures from the 1940's are just examples of the whimsical and





often naughty paintings/expressions Manhattan included on their bottles.

The next three are Manhattans as well. The clock under the globe contains a Honey and Peach cordial. The globe is glass, while the base of the clock is celluloid. The bottle itself is enclosed in metal filigree forming to the clock. The Dutch girl is one dimensional and she is carrying two miniature liqueur bottles. She is wearing wooden shoes. The blue horse's head is actually a unicorn. You see

this mini often enough, but usually without the horn.

The last is an oriental vase mini, about two inches tall. This ornate and well-executed vase was produced by E. Delatour from St. Croix, Virgin Islands, and is just one of a good-sized group of super ceramics produced by Delatour, many of which I have in my collection.

Hope you enjoyed a brief glance at some of my favorites. Again, David, thanks for 32 super years!

--Butch--

BEER



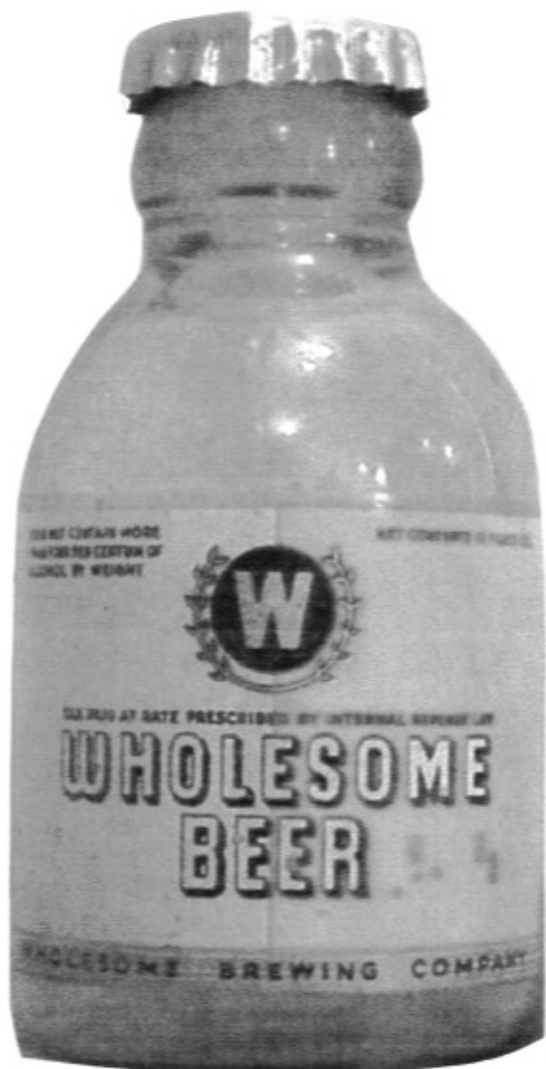
by **SCOTT P. SPAID**

In the world of miniature beer bottle collecting, it isn't hard to pick up a Blatz, Schlitz, or Pabst Blue Ribbon for your collection. Just do a quick search on ebay and you'll know what I'm talking about. After you have been collecting these things for a while, it is not too hard to create a rather nice collection consisting of some moderately hard to find bottles such as Crystal Rock, Red Ribbon, Tip Top, Fehr's, Manhattan, and many others. Once you have these bottles you'll probably find yourself lusting for more! At that point, prepare to break out your checkbook, as the next level of toughies will tax your bank account. This assumes, of course, you will even have the opportunity to purchase one of these rarities!

Enter the elusive Manru Lager. This beauty is super tough and some consider it the pinnacle of the hobby. It is known to exist in all three common sizes of 4 1/4", 4", and 3". Here we have the 3" version, affectionately known as a "stubby". Manru Lager was brewed by the Schreiber Brewing Company of Buffalo, New York.

Our next toughie is a one-of-a-kind. Well, at least only one is known to exist at this point. Submitted for your approval in the Wholesome Beer, perhaps one of the most interesting mini beers to have surfaced in a long time. First, the label is decal, which makes it very difficult to fake. Notice the size. This bottles stands an unusual 2 1/2" tall.

After some rather extensive research, the verdict is this was a prototype bottle used to pitch the concept of putting your brand on a



miniature bottle. The glass is Owens Illinois, much like many mini beers such as Ambrosia, Nectar, and Frederick's 4-Crown (a very tough bottle in its own right). In fact, the color scheme of the Wholesome Beer is the same as the aforementioned minis. Next, the Internal Revenue Tax Paid statement dates the bottle somewhere between 1935 and 1940. The funny thing about this bottle is the

Wholesome Brewing Company never existed. However, the unknown maker of this bottle went to great pains to get the content, alcohol percentage and IRTP statement accurate.

So, when you find yourself searching through an antique store or more likely ebay, keep your eyes peeled for the tough stuff like these gems!

--S.P.S.--

DEKUYPER



This is our second look at the figurals of DeKuyper. What was shown last time, in previous issues and this time are less than half of the known bottles. Well over one hundred have been identified.

Not much is known today about them because of the passage of time. What we do know is that they were produced by Grindley Art



Ware of Sebring, Ohio, and that company has been out of business since a devastating fire in the late 1930's.

As many bottles as possible are being squeezed in here. You just may recognize a ceramic you've seen at an antique shop or "junque" store which had no label. They can't all have disappeared!



















VODKA

by JOHN SULLIVAN



We're going to do a European vodka tour once again, but we'll be primarily in eastern Europe. I want to be going with a couple of bottles from Estonia. It is one of the smallest countries in the world, but produces some of the nicest mini vodka bottles I have seen. Also, I want to tell you that Tallinn, the capital of Estonia, has one of the nicest "Old Town" regions in all of Europe. If you ever have the chance to visit Tallinn, don't miss it.

The two bottles are the UX and

the Standard. I find these interesting because of the great differences in the two labels. The UX couldn't be more plain while the Standard is anything but with that marvelous rooster's head on the label. If you do go to Tallinn, you'll find lots of places to buy miniatures because the liquor is inexpensive since that's one of the lures for Finnish and Swedish tourists.

From Romania we have the Kreskova Dry Vodka. Not the



Germany is the home of the Jobelius Valkoff Vodka. Note the double-headed eagle on the label which tries to seduce the buyer into thinking its from Russia. What we do have from Russia is the Zhanskaya (the shield-like label) and the Stolarik. Notice you can't find the latter? It's because the Russian tax strip is hiding the "C" or Cyrillic "S". This bottle has been photographed on its side so that you got a good view of the label on the top of the bottle. It is actually a

fanciest of labels, but how many bottles do you see from Romania? There are a great many bottles from the Czech Republic, but this Alexander Pushkin is one of the nicest ones. A good embossed glass bottle with a well done label.

In Poland we would find the Bak Bison Grass Vodka; however, you can also find here in the U.S. in Florida. It comes in that little carrying case which is shown with the bottle. Naturally there is a piece of the "buffalo" grass in the bottle.





good sized shot glass.

Now in the true spirit of saving the best for last, we have the Snow Queen from Kazakhstan. This one is simply outstanding and superior! The bottle is frosted and the workmanship on the label is excellent. Currently it is only available in Kazakhstan and London; however, they hope to have the vodka introduced in France shortly.

CONNEMARA



It isn't often we find new whiskies in the U.S. Occasionally a company in a grandiose moment of generosity will issue a plastic bottle with a non-descript label. And even once in a while a new scotch or two will make an appearance. However, a set of Irish whiskies in a gift pack with a special tasting glass is practically a miniature bottle miracle.

In any case, this set of three

Connemara peated single malt Irish whiskies is indeed a time for rejoicing if you're a whisky collector. If you don't want to get out a magnifying glass to see the labels, here's the info. From right to left, they are the regular Connemara, the 12 year old, and the cask strength. As a special bonus, the tasting glass is the new shape whisky nosing glass. So there for about \$20 is one very nice set!

TEQUILA



To finish up the year, we have a most eclectic group of ten for you. There are no "also rans" in this group and they represent a wide variety of interesting tequilas.

We'll begin with the most average of the bottles, the two straight glass pieces, Pancho Villa and Rio Club. Both of these were made for Europe. The Pancho Villa was exported to Germany while the frosted glass Rio Club went to Spain. What makes these bottles rather special is that they are so difficult to obtain. If you think it's difficult to find some of the brands we show in the U.S., it's much much worse in Europe as tequila does not have the cachet it has here.



Now we'll look at the two ceramics. Our comic pistolero and his muchacha (the one without the moustache) are only sold in Mexico even though these characters may be found in large size in the U.S. If the picture appears a bit fuzzy, it's because there is a cellophane tape wrapped around the bottles. The brand Calera is found in a great variety of clever (read collector) bottles.

The two tall Herencia Mexicana bottles are the reposado and the anejo; however, there is a third in the set which seemed to have disappeared on camera day. These are very high quality tequilas and state that they are "limited production". However, limited production often means that the bottles are limited to how many can be sold.

Now we'll get fancy. About a year ago the large size Corzo bottles appeared. These were totally unlike any other tequila bottles on the market. In fact, comparisons are made to perfume bottles. In any case, the boxed silver and reposado Corzo miniatures are a marvelous addition to any tequila collection. They certainly aren't inexpensive, but they're worth it.





And now, we'll get even fancier. The last pair of bottles are the ORO de Jalisco, the blanco and anejo...as of yet there is no reposado. Note the embossing on the bottles. The workmanship is of as high a quality as the contents. Now, here is the story as the wholesaler tells it.

Remember the AsomBroso bottles of a couple of years ago? The people who did that brand bought the younger tequilas from this small company. Younger in

this case means up to five years. Thus the blanco is said to be a five year old tequila while the anejo is a nine year old. This is unheard of in tequila ageing. In large size, the anejo sells for a minimum of \$200 thus you might correctly guess that these are expensive miniatures. The pair, with tax, costs approximately \$28 here in So. Cal.

So, a group of ten highly desirable and collectable tequilas. Which ones do you want first?

SCOTCH

David Maund



I thought I would finish up this year with an article devoted to sets. It's always nice to see this bottle or that bottle; however, groups from the same distillery I find quite interesting.

Let me begin with the two sets with the most bottles. This is the Isle of Jura set from, of course, the Isle of Jura and the Glenfarclas set from the middle of the Highlands. From left to right, the Jura set is comprised of Legacy, Superstition, the 10 year old, and the 16 year old. Only the 10 year old seems to be readily available in most shops, so it is the other three

which provide the interest for this set.

The Glenfarclas bottles have somewhat more colorful labels and the set is the 10, 12, 15, and 25 year old single malts. There used to be a 30 year old miniature but that's only seen behind glass at the distillery. Glenfarclas has a very nice shop (and tour) at the distillery, too.

Sort of bridging the gap between sets four and five is the Ben Riach group. There are three shown but a gremlin somewhere made off with the 16 year old so that only the 10, 12 and 20 year old bottles were





available for photographing. These bottles are relative newcomers as the distillery hasn't been open under the Ben Riach name for too long. Interestingly, the 10 year old is named *Curiositas* while the others do not have specific names.

Dalmore is our next group of three. The first is the Cigar/Malt which has been specially made to be consumed whilst smoking a cigar. The second, the 12 year old, is the bottle generally seen in the shops and the third is a variation of the 12 year old but called *The Black Isle*. I find one of the most curious things about these is the shape of the bottle itself. Rather

nice.

Finally we have the set from Tullibardine, another Highland Whisky. These three have greater differences than the others bottles mentioned above. The first is a Vintage 1993 in a normal 40% alc. by volume. The second is a 1988 vintage but at 46% and the third is the one which will lighten your wallet considerably. This is the 1973-2004 bottling of a thirty year old and this time at 49.2%.

So there for you are five groups or sets. It doesn't matter how you collect them...either individually or in groups, just enjoy them!

--D.L.M.--



In an effort to reduce stock, all the back issues from number 31 through number 168 are now being offered at the absolutely ridiculously low price of

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MELO'S MINIS

MIKE OLSON



Say it ain't so, David...no more MBC!?! I suppose all things must end, but I will miss doing these articles. I could be modest and say I did them to inform other collectors, but the fact is, I love showing bottles which leave the reader mumbling "sumbitch". Anyway, we close with a dozen more of the great Paramount bottles of Chicago. This was going to be part two of four, we'll end it with some of the best. All of these

were bottled for liquor stores and/or distributors. All are fairly rare with the Derby Field probably being the rarest.

Now, some final thoughts. 1975 was a seminal year for me. That was the year I got married and started collecting mini bottles. I am still married, but romance has flown the coop. On the other hand, my bottle collection has evolved into something to behold. I collect only American and some Canadian



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whiskeys and my collection would probably rank at or near the top for this category.

I say this with some qualification because there may be some unknown collections out there which would blow everybody away. I have a well-rounded collection with no weak areas and most of my bottles are in great condition. I do not have some of the rare California whiskeys and am missing a few of the railroad

bottles, but no collector can have them all. I still love to collect, but now get almost all of my bottles on the internet. Hell, with most sellers taking paypal, I hardly ever have to mail a check.

Anyway, insidious old age has snuck up on me and kicked me in the ass. My get up and go has gotten up and went. I hope you've enjoyed the bottles as much as I do.

All in all, it's been fun!

...MELO...

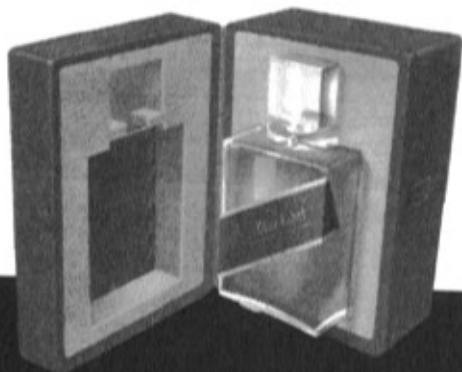
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