

THE

VOL. XV No. 3
No. 87 1988

**MINIATURE
BOTTLE
COLLECTOR**



MINI BOTTLE INTERNATIONAL



AUCTION MAGAZINE

A Magazine for miniature liquor bottle collectors featuring interesting articles in every issue, combined with a miniature liquor bottle MAIL AUCTION featuring hundreds of bottles from all over the world, including Whiskeys, Rums, Vodkas, Cognacs, Liqueurs, etc.... Figurals and even some large bottles.

Published every two months by the MINI BOTTLE INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM of Southboro, Massachusetts.

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Let's Talk

You know, I always have a lot to say about bottles until I sit down to type this column. Then the mind goes blank. So, the first thing to talk about is all of the columns this time.

As promised, Alfredo Spinelli is here with his article about the Argentine Cazanove bottles, a few really interesting liqueurs from decades back. Then Ed Neugass treats us to some rum labels from the Zwack company of even more decades back. I think when you see these and others we'll run in the near future that all of you will be asking why companies can't do labels like this today.

A new series on scotch malts debuts this time. Written by Mike Barbakoff of Harpenden, England, these articles will definitely whet your appetite for malts. This initial one is quite general but next time you'll get an in-depth report on Talisker, including two new and extremely rare ones.

Next time you'll also see the 1988 Wild Turkey mini and other of our regulars including Mike Olson (MELO) and Terry Kramer. Terry will be featuring the bottles from Wiser's Distillery in number 88. Hopefully we'll also have a picture of the new dog bottle which is a follow up to the Hoffman bulldog of a couple of years back.

Here's something for which to watch. Will there be a bottle or two to celebrate the recent royal birth? Hopefully our English collecting friends will keep their eyes alert for any new commemoratives.

Finally, one more big plug for the upcoming October shows. If you're in Pennsylvania the first weekend of October, wend your way to Skippack. If you're on the west coast the next weekend, make certain you're in San Francisco. --DMS--

THE

Vol. XV No. 3
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MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

Editor/Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

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Our Cover

It's been several issues since we've featured the giveaway bottles on the cover. These two certainly aren't concerned that fall is here and the end of the year just around the corner. In fact, these grinning delights could chase your blues away... all you have to do is look at them and they'll bring a smile to your face. Look for these characters at antique shows, you won't find them in stores.

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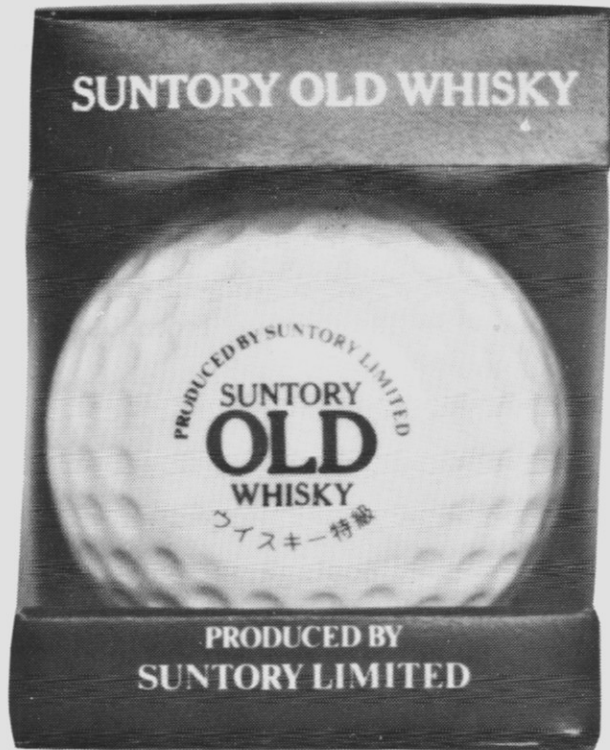
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FROM JAPAN

by TAIZO SHIRATSUCHI

This time I would like to present four golf ball miniatures from Suntory LTD. The first is the very familiar bottle which contains 100ml of Suntory Old Whisky. It is 43% alcohol, 8 cm tall and comes in a red box. It is still available in liquor stores.

The second bottle was produced to commemorate the cooperation between MacGregor Golf Japan Ltd. and Suntory Ltd. It was in November 1984 and only 3600 pieces were made as a souvenir at a reception.



MacGregor had then opened an Osaka branch in September 1985 and built their head office in November 1986. They had two stores by the name of Tourney Club which was named after golf clubs. The third bottle with the trademark of the Tourney Club was issued in a 900 piece run in 1985 and another 1500 pieces in 1986... again as a souvenir.

SUNTORY OLD WHISKY



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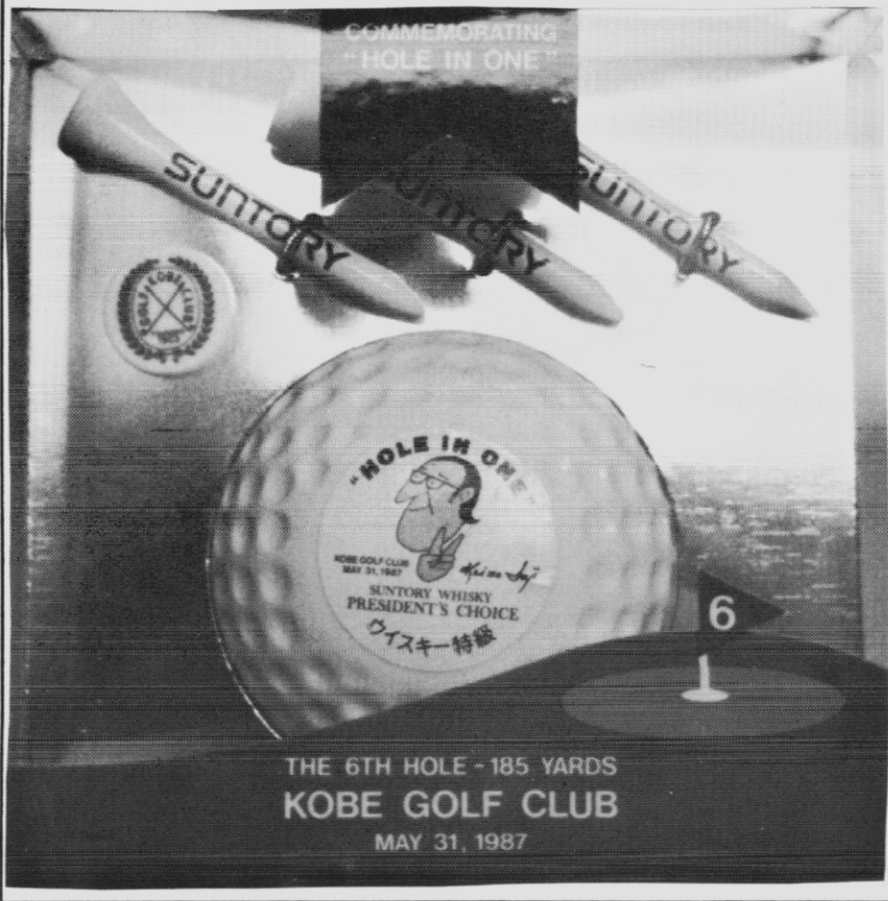


SUNTORY OLD WHISKY

The last one is a private stock. As you can see, it is the commemorative "Hole in One" bottle. The hole in one was made by Mr. Keizo Saji, president of Suntory Ltd. It is contained in a clear plastic case with three tees and a marker. The whisky inside is quite special as it was blended by Mr. Saji himself.

Now the most remarkable thing is that these golf ball bottles are miniatures. Why the real golf ball itself is much more miniature than these are!

--T. S.--



THE 6TH HOLE - 185 YARDS
KOBE GOLF CLUB
MAY 31, 1987

A Visit To Boozeville

by Lloyd McLeod



Boozeville is a typical small town of the early 1900's... and so are the people who live here. If they get the chance at a good thing, they will make a pig of themselves. Usually it's booze, but it can be other things.

That must be what the bottle shown here represents. This was probably given out in the bars and saloons to prospective grooms.

This bottle is about 6" tall and shows a pig holding a bouquet of flowers. His skin is pink, coat black, pants checked light and darker green. It has the normal orange back with no printing on it. There are reports that a larger (quart size) pig like this one (only all blue) was for sale in a mid-western antique show for \$300.00. The base on that one read "Dressed for the Wedding" or something really close to that.

Our thanks to Keith and Lorraine Holt for sharing another one of their very rare Giveaway bottles from their collection.

Well, now it's time to get back to the trough for some more of that good old sour mash.

--L. M. --

Whiskey Heritage

by

GEORGE JINKENS

the g.r.r-eatest

This time we will start with a private label, Powers Old Seventeen Brand. This was bottled by Walter P. Powers of Chicago. And actually, the surprise about this bottle is that it was really bottled by Lionel of Chicago. Most collectors will surely know the name Lionel if they collect whiskey.

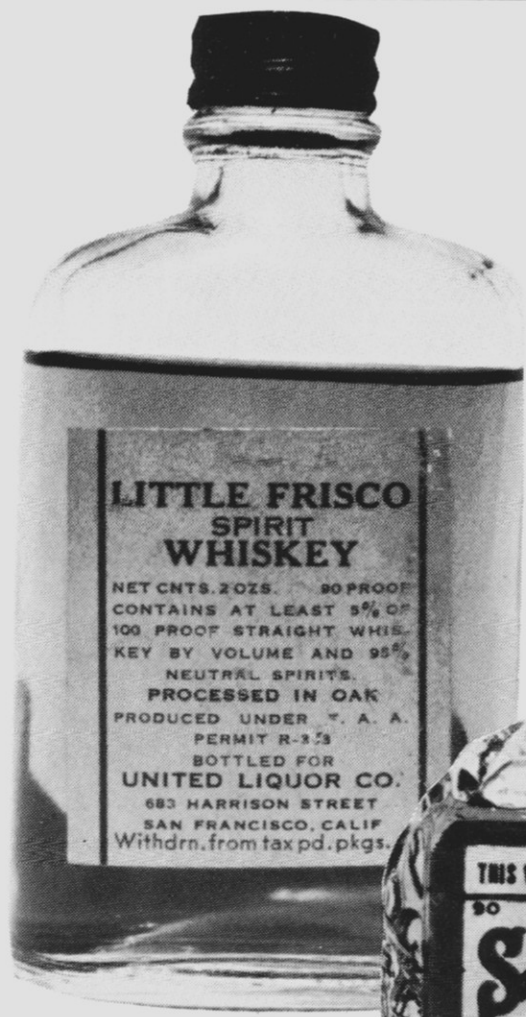
Next we have Little Frisco. I'm fond of this bottle because I lived and worked for many years in San Francisco. Little Frisco was bottled for the United Liquor Co. of San Francisco. This is not one of the more attractive labels I have seen but it's in good condition, and you don't see this one in many collections.

Finally, we have Saratoga Club, the only Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey in the group. It was distilled by the Bernheim Distilling Co., Louisville, KY. The whiskey in it was three years old when bottled and it's a 90 proof. Note that this is the same pebbled-type bottle also used on such bottles as Four Seasons, Daniel Webster, and Kentucky Capitol.

I'll be back next time with three more oldies including Right Time!

--G. J. --





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SCOTCH

by

MIKE BARBAKOFF



One of the great delights in the miniature bottle world is the diversity of specialised interest to be found amongst collectors. In a land where figurals and whiskey with an "e" reign supreme, I guess Scotch is seen as more of a minority interest. Over here in the UK, Scotch "straights" dominate collector interest. The specialisation within Scotch gaining significant ground in collector interest here is Scotch Malt Whisky. Within Scotch Malt Whisky is my specialisation, the "single" malt.

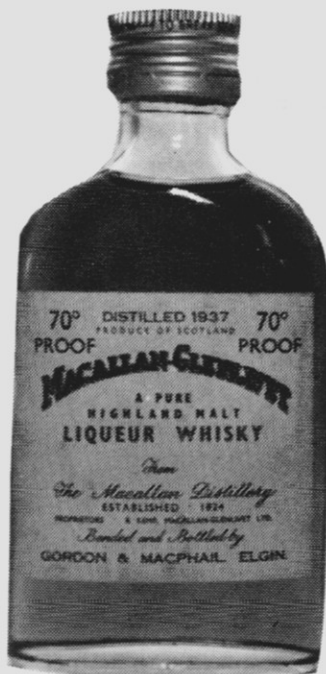
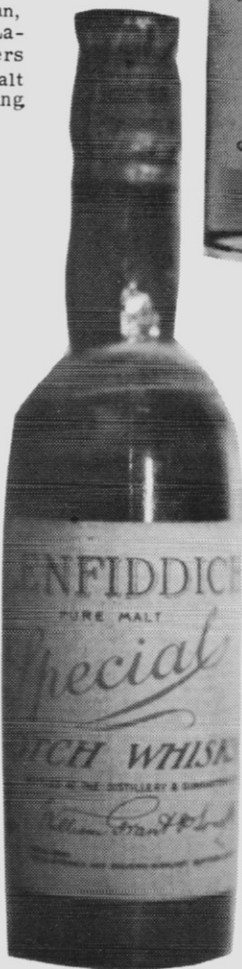
For the uninitiated, the single malt

is the original Scotch. It is the product of a single pot-still distillery and the basic taste component of the blended Scotch most people are familiar with. A "vatted malt" is the blending of more than one single, but not mixing in any grain alcohol. The single malt offers the collector a direct link with history, industrial archeology and the romance of the Scottish glens in a manner that cannot be replicated in an industrial blending hall. For the imbibor, there are quality tastes to match the finest that Cognac and Armagnac have to offer.

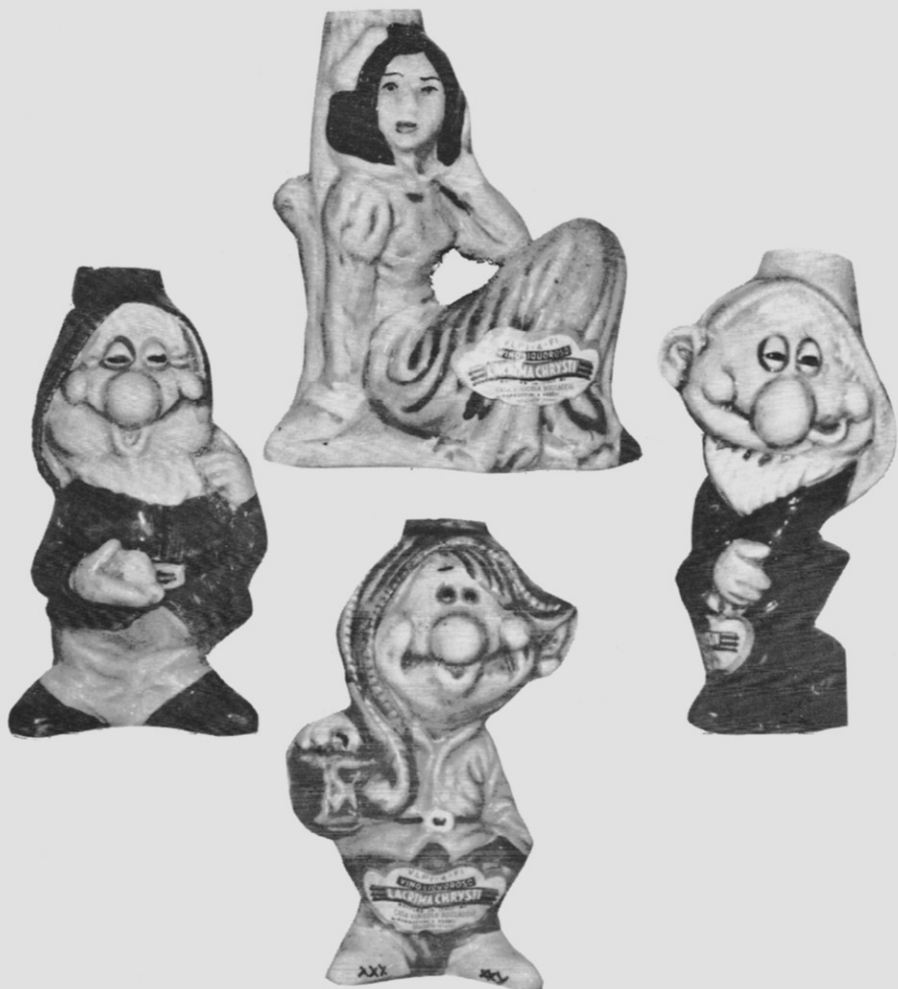
Since World War II, only 120 pot still distilleries have operated in Scotland, and alas, today, many have been mothballed and some are gone forever. For many of these, the legend (and thankfully bonded stocks) lives on. Single malt miniatures have been produced representing about 112 of these, but the spectrum of label, age and bottle shape variations boosts the potential collection to perhaps 1000. Within the single malt arena can be found some of the rarest of all Scotch miniatures. A few of my favourites are shown below. Only one or two known examples survive of these.

Over a number of articles concentrating on the miniatures of important individual distilleries like Macallan, Glenfiddich, Glenlivet, Bowmore, Laphroaig and Talisker. I hope that others might find the lure of the single malt appealing. Till then, happy collecting

--M. B. --



MINI WORLD



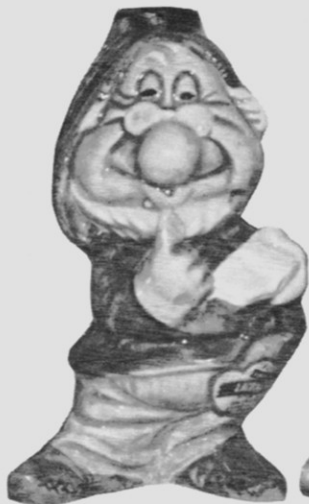
Recently there has been talk among collectors in a number of places concerning the original Barsottini set of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. Heaven knows what's sparked this interest after all these years (of course, genuine interest in Disney items is always strong); however, for those of you who have never seen the set (and know even less of the controversy which surrounds it), here it is!

Originally imported with the first English Range (almost the same set as that issued by Drioli in 1969) in the late 1950's, the sets were brought into the U.S. through La France Imports of Portland, Oregon. Very few were sold before the Disney lawyers pounced. Why, wasn't it scandalous to have Disney characters filled with Lacrima Christi Wine? Probably the only reason the lawyers thought so is that no

royalties had been paid, no rights given.

So, after great ado, the seven dwarfs disappeared from the marketplace. A few of the Snow White pieces continued to be sold as people did not realize it was indeed Snow White. This came about because that original English Range contained a King Henry the VIII along with two women who were thought to be two of his wives. Since Snow White was approximately the same size as the two wives, she became thought of as a third wife of Henry the VIII.

In any case, in the mid-1970's approximately 70 sets were brought into the U.S. by an Italian dealer and several more turned up in the next two to three years. At the high end, possibly one hundred sets were placed in collectors' hands and today that number would have to be reduced. If you have a set, you have a rare item and one to be prized. Finally, if you're wondering about values, the last set I know of to be sold went for a nice round one thousand dollars!



Glass!

by

ALFREDO SPINELLI



La Sociedad Anonima (Society Anonymous) of the Grande Distillery of E. Cusenier Fils Ainé and Company was founded in France by Mr. Eugenio Cusenier in Ormans, France in 1858. They have six distilleries in France which are located in: La Corneuve, Ormas, Mulhouse, Marseille, Dijon and two in Cognac.

Besides these they have founded three independent companies in diverse countries with the purpose of exposing (exploiting) their zone of influence. These are situated in Brussels, Belgium; Basil, Switzerland; and Buenos Aires where they have been in business since 1896.

The activity of the Cusenier companies was extended throughout the world up to the second world war. Then the makers of Cusenier in Europe were forced to stop their activities and turn to the Cusenier company in Buenos Aires for exportation. This company had caught the attention of the merchants (the marketplace), particularly in the United States.



Then eight miniatures were exported to the U. S. and imported by Taylor of New York City. We can say that they were the first miniatures from Argentina exported to the U. S. The exported products, with labels in English and with a contents of 3/32 pint, are the following: 1 - Creme de Cacao, 2 - Peach Liqueur, 3 - Grenadine, 4 - Maraschino Cordial, 5 - Mazarine Cordial, 6 - Freezomint, Creme de Menthe, 7 - Cherry Liqueur, 8 - Kummel.

--A. S.--

(Ed. Note: Alfredo sent this article in Spanish and with my high school Español and a dictionary, you've just read the result.)



THE CLUB REPORT



Restaurant Orankesee

A GREAT DAY FOR THE MINIATURE COLLECTORS IN THE G. D. R.

The 29th of May earlier this year was a great day for the mini bottle collectors in the G.D.R. It was also a memorable day for the citizenship of (East) Berlin because on this Sunday the Miniaturflaschen-Club organized the first miniature bottle show in the history of the southern sector of this divided city.

The bottle show entitled "1st International Exchange Day Berlin 1988" took place in the dancing hall of the Restaurant Orankesee at the Oranke Lake in Berlin-Hohenschonhausen which is a well known recreation area for the Berlin public.

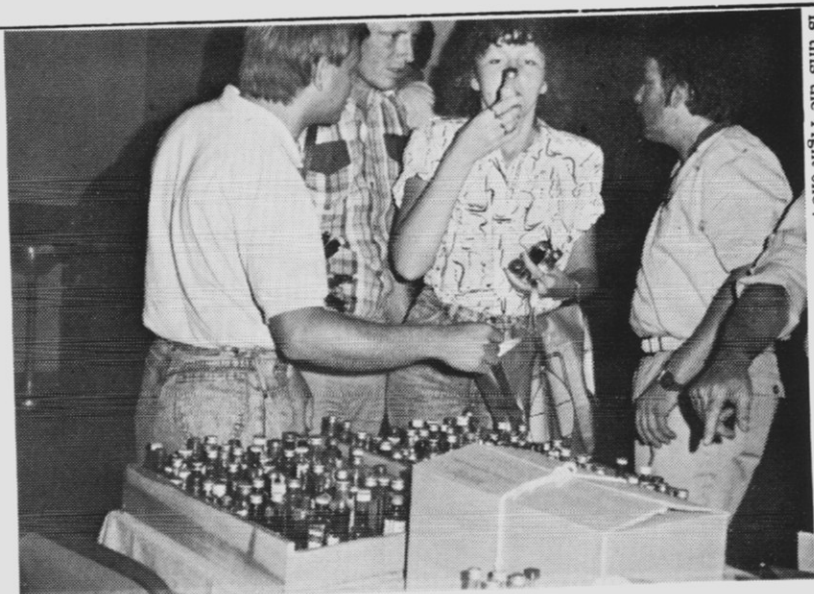
Although the bottle show officially began at 11 am, the first of the MfC's members were coming here shortly past nine. They were preparing the dancing hall for the bottle show. When they were ready, a big group of the collectors from Zwickau arrived.

Then the first foreign guests began to arrive. These were collectors from West Berlin. Then the Leipzig members as well as many individuals and other foreign collectors from West Germany and Czechoslovakia arrived.

At 11 am the dancing hall was full of people and bottles. Some collectors' hearts were overjoyed when they saw the beautiful porcelain figurals on the table of Michael Mathis from West Berlin, the rare whiskeys of Karl-Heinz Kessemeyer from West Germany, or the newest miniatures produced in Czechoslovakia shown by Mr. Ladislav Holub of Czechoslovakia. The whisky hunters occupied the table of Mr. Kliman of the Czechoslovak Collectors Club, who brought the famous Private Club Whisky with the new black label.

During the bottle show, hundreds of bottles exchanged their proprietors, many collectors concluded new friendships, many people of Berlin found a new hobby. Some Berlin collectors joined the membership of the MfC and the atmosphere for all was very hearty, very joyful.

At one o'clock the trade activities were broken because the Managing Committee of the MfC was going to proclaim the results of the Club's member recruiting action for 1987-1988. Prizes for the five best collectors were redeemed and presented.



These were interesting miniature sets donated by some West-European distilleries.

After this ceremony, the trading continued. Some collectors were so avidly hunting bottles that they even forgot to eat the lunch which had been offered by the restaurant's kitchen.

The Managing Committee could close the bottle show with the knowledge that it was extremely successful. Also, the foreign guests were satisfied. On the question of having the bottle show in Berlin, a collector from West Berlin

said to us:

"I want to thank you very much! It was great! The Restaurant Orankesee is an ideal place for any bottle show. It is also a good place for the meetings between the collectors from West and East. Even a whisky collector like myself was certainly satisfied. I have only one wish - to meet you as well as many other collectors from all over the world at the International Exchange Day in Berlin next year!"

This is what we of the MfC also wish!

--Ivan Uhlík--

Mike Mathis' figurals



Tradition of Excellence

Symbol of Quality

by

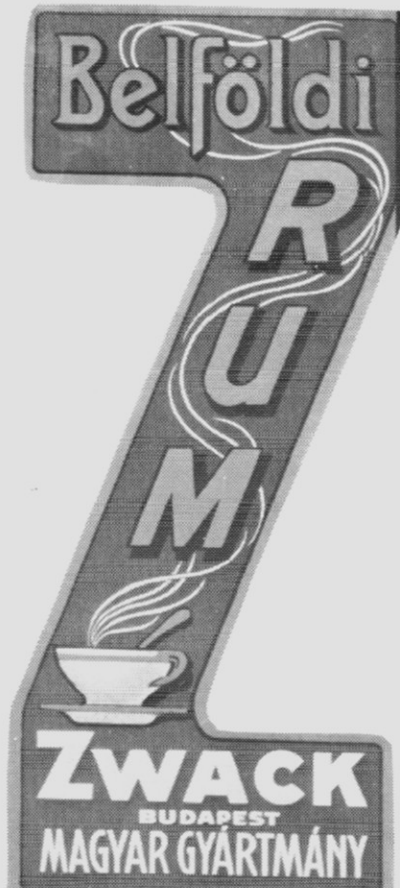
EDWIN NEUGASS, III

Writing my last Zwack article for MBC was a labor of love. It was also a lot of sheer labor. Right after the article's publication, I felt a bit down. I thought my collecting Zwack bottles was pretty much over. Anyway, what could I write... never mind finding any more bottles?

Recently a reprint of a Joseph Levesque article appeared where he reminded us that the chase is at least half the fun of this particular hobby. So what you see in this article is pure fun! However, what I am now presenting are labels. What LABELS though. On the other hand, it does have to be a little strange for me to be presenting labels and not bottles.

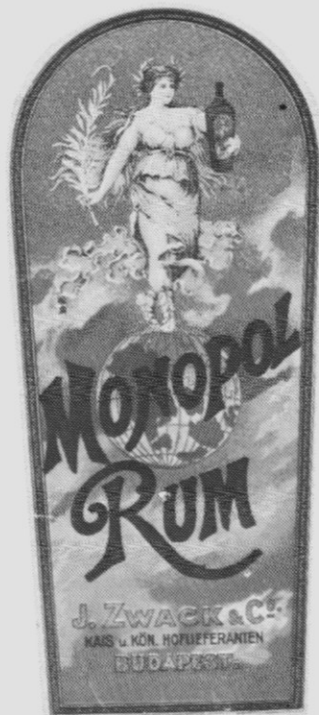
For the purists among you, I do have an admission. I believe that most of these labels may never have appeared on miniatures. They could have, but in all likelihood, most did not. Which ones did appear on miniatures? We will probably never really know, but the possibility that some did appear on miniatures keeps matters very interesting. Don't you agree?

From the set of negatives I have, I have chosen a few for your enjoyment. One of them is really pretty plain, but I felt it would be fun to bring it to your attention. It is a label for a whiskey. Did you know that Zwack distributed a whiskey?



Now those of you who know me probably know that I'd wish it were American whiskey so I could rib our zealous collectors of American whiskeys. If you read the label, you'll notice it says: "Whisky according to Scotch manner". I'll just have to settle for tantalizing our scotch collectors. Just think, somewhere out there might be a scotch which was made by Zwack in miniature.

I will make another admission. While ribbing other collectors is something done for fun, it does not compare with the best part of what is here. When I look at these labels, I see a visual feast. I am delighted that some of you might agree. If you do, please contact our kind editor and I will then be more than happy to share others of these beauties with you. --E. N.--



A Story Behind Every Label

by Joe Levesque



BENEDICTINE, part II

IMITATIONS and SIMULATIONS

In the middle ages, religious monasteries were great centers of learning, and all had an infirmary to treat their own members and the peasants of the surrounding area. Alcohol was thought to have mysterious medicinal properties, and it was used and consumed in a variety of ways. Let's not laugh about it. Even today, many of our Patent medicines on drug store shelves contain a percentage of alcohol. In France, CHARTREUSE ELIXIR is currently sold only in drug stores, yet it is absolutely the identical formula to CHARTREUSE LIQUEUR available in liquor stores.

1. This is THE legitimate BENEDICTINE miniature which has been on the market worldwide for decades. Its outstanding features are its shape, its religious connotation, its shoulder seal and neck band. Most of these features will be reproduced in one form or another in the imitations.

2. LIQUEUR MONASTIQUE from Poznan, Poland, once imported in the U.S. Notice the shape, the "Monastique" connection, shoulder seal and neck band.

3. ST. ANGELENE rhymes with Benedictine. Produced by DuBouchet, USA. Notice shape, shoulder seal, neck band.

For centuries, the French people were predominantly Catholic and had great faith in products originating in monasteries. BENEDICTINE was the embodiment of this confidence and many small producers, here and there, tried to capture the spirit of this marketing phenomenon.

In a wing of the BENEDICTINE museum in Fecamp, France, one can see over 1000 different bottles, all imitations and simulations of the one and only true BENEDICTINE. At one time or another, all these other brand names have been challenged by BENEDICTINE and legal proceedings instituted against them.



4. ABADIA produced in Mexico, imported into the USA. Notice shape, religious connection (Abadia - Abbey), large round seal, etc.

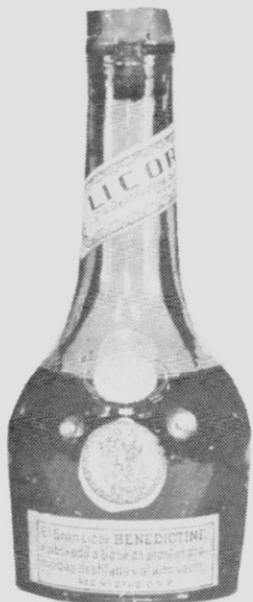
5. SANCTUS by St. Galmier, France. Again notice shape, religious connection, shoulder seal.

6. CLARISTINE by Leroux, USA. The brand name CALRISTINE rhymes with Benedictine and pertains to the Claristes, a Catholic religious order. Notice the bottle shape, the religious connection, shoulder seal, neck band.

These imitations may be described as those by shape, color, label, design, or brand name were meant to influence the consumer that this liqueur is comparable to BENEDICTINE. We are not discussing "absolute forgeries". To the contrary, these are legitimate imitations and simulations and most were in production in the period between the 1930's and the 1950's. Some of these imitations originated in bona fide religious communities, while others were outright crass simulations. One imposter was called: Abbe Dictine.

In their heyday, these imitations came from practically every country in the world, and the USA provided its share, such as BONAPARTE (Chicago), BERNADINE (San Francisco), BENETREX (Chicago), BEN-TENE (Baltimore), VESPERTIME (Cincinnati), DOMINICUS (Chicago), BERNODET (Chicago), BENEDINE (Chicago), and SAINT BENEDICT (New York).

--Joseph Levesque--



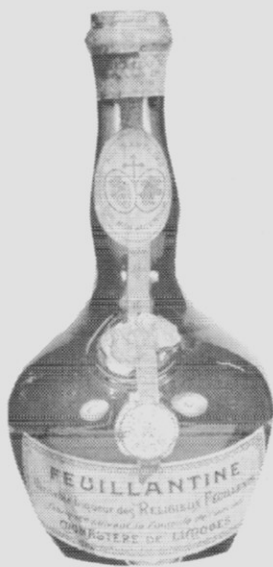
7. BENEDICTINE from Mexico. How flagrant can it be?

8. BENAI LIQUEUR by DuBouchet, USA (Many, Blanc & Co., Chicago). Does this miniature need any interpretation?

9. FREDERIKTINE by Delatour, U.S. Virgin Islands. Frederiktime rhymes with Benedictine and it even has an illustration of a monk on the label. Notice the shoulder seal, neck strip.



10. BENELECTUS, Mexico. Notice the similarity with #7. The Mexicans have turned out to be the greatest "legitimate" miniature liquor bottle imitators in the world.



11. FEILLANTINE, from a bona fide monastery in Limoges, France. Feillantine rhymes with Benedictine, and pertains to a now defunct Catholic Religious community.



12. VALENTINE, produced by Benoit Serres, France. The brand name rhymes with Benedictine, and let us not forget that our Valentine's Day celebration was named after Saint Valentine. There are plenty of religious connotations on this label. Notice the cross, and the illustration of a monastery in the background. Even the letter style is "monastic"... get the picture?



Jerry Cohen

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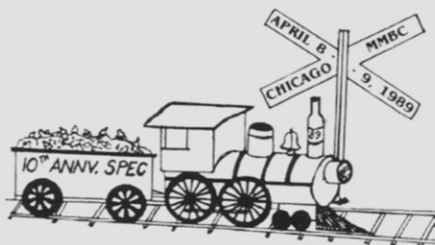
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