

MORE OHIO MINI-JUGS

By Jack Sullivan

The mini-jug was a staple giveaway item in the liquor trade in Ohio and the rest of the U.S. During the pre-Prohibition era distillers gave them to their wholesalers, wholesalers gave them to saloonkeepers, and saloonkeepers gave them to familiar faces along the bar. The jugs were cheap to make, easy to distribute, and an item that landed on a shelf and might stay there for a long time. As a result, many of these small ceramics have survived to this day, no longer cheap but highly collectible. Here is another selection from the Buckeye State.

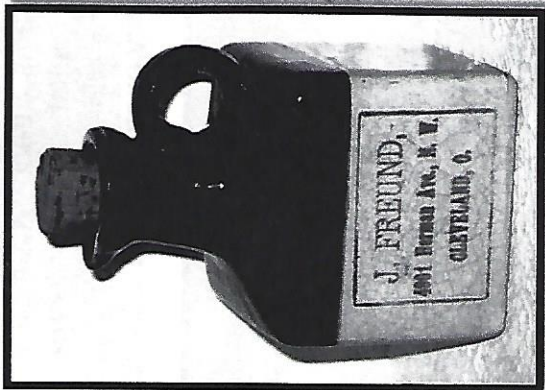


Figure 2



Figure 1

The J. Freund jug is from Cleveland, shown here on both sides (**Fig. 1, 2**). It carries an ad for Colonial Rye. That whiskey was a product of the Buffalo Distilling Co., of Buffalo, New York. The Freund firm listed its address as 4901 Herman Avenue. My research turned up no further information on J. Freund nor on the Marsick & Kohl mini jug (**Fig. 3**). It is from Cleveland with a given address of 1202 Pearl St.



Figure 3

In Toledo Harry H. Klein operated a saloon and liquor store pre-Prohibition, doing business as Klein Bros. Company. Described in business directories as a distributor of "wines & brandies & fine whiskies," the company initially occupied a building in downtown Toledo at the corner of Monroe and Adams Streets. It then moved next door to 519-520 Adams Street. Klein also had an outlet at 520 Monroe St.

He gave away several different mini-jugs over the years. This one (Fig. 4) may be an early example since later Klein joined the Golden Hill chain.

William C. Peter, who gave a mini jug to favored customers at Christmas (Fig. 5), advertised in the 1910 Fostoria directory: "Dealers In Fancy Wines, Liquors, Cigars and Lunch." He operated a retail liquor store combined with a lunch room at 303 South Main Street in Fostoria. His business disappeared from local directories by 1917. The building still stands as part of a secondhand store. L. F. Eckroate of Canton also gave out mini-jugs at the holiday season (Fig. 6), marking New Years as well as Christmas on his item. The Eckroate operation was located on West Tuscarora St. in Canton.



Figure 4



Figure 5

The Railroad Trainman's Journal, a national magazine, in 1902 recommended training crews the cafe run by Wilson and Rosser in Nelsonville, located on Colorado Street. The partners presumably also had a liquor business, advertising themselves on their mini-jug (Fig. 8) as agents for Cupid Whiskey. That brand had been trademarked in 1906 by the Elias Hyman whiskey firm of Cincinnati.

The Seyfert's Private Stock mini-jug (Fig. 9) likely was issued by Max C. Seyfert who was proprietor of the Kentucky Liquor House in Circleville.

S.M. Dennison was the owner of a saloon called the Green Mill in Chillicothe when he provided a mini-jug to his drinking trade (Fig. 7). He subsequently appears to have expanded his business into wholesale liquor. Local directories showed his address as 268 E. Main from 1902 to 1909. Later he moved to 284 E. Main where he stayed until shut down in 1917 by Ohio's prohibition laws.

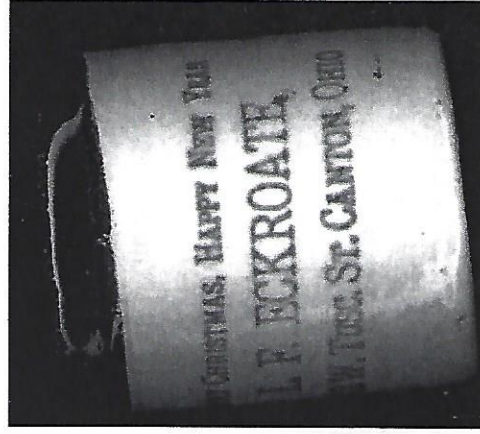
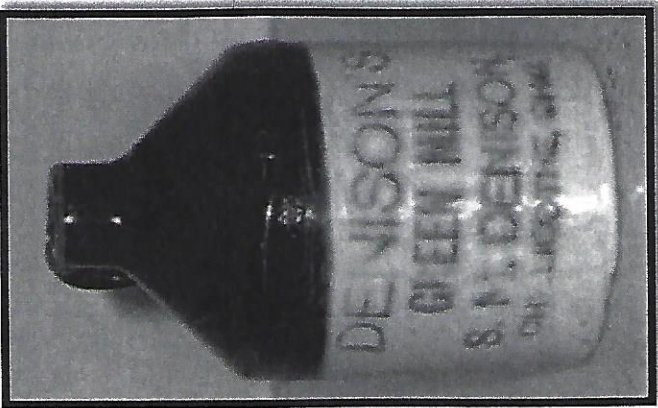


Figure 6



He used the slogan "Honest Goods, Nothing Better." The jug notes "both phones," which harks back to the early days of the telephone when a small town might have two competing companies before the Bell System was born.

Charles Hossfeld was a German immigrant who came to the U.S., just after his marriage in 1864 and shortly after the Civil War settled in Southern Ohio at Hamilton.

Hossfeld established a combined grocery and liquor business, but later the

Figure 7

grocery side was abandoned, and he continued in charge of the liquor business until his death in 1906.

At that point, Albert Hossfeld, his son who had been made a partner in the company by his father in 1864, took over the management of the liquor business. In 1904 the firm had been incorporated as the C. Hossfeld & Son Co., and after the death of Charles the name was retained. In

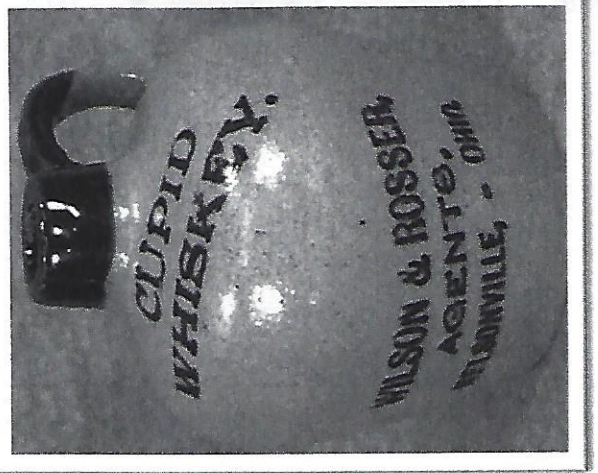
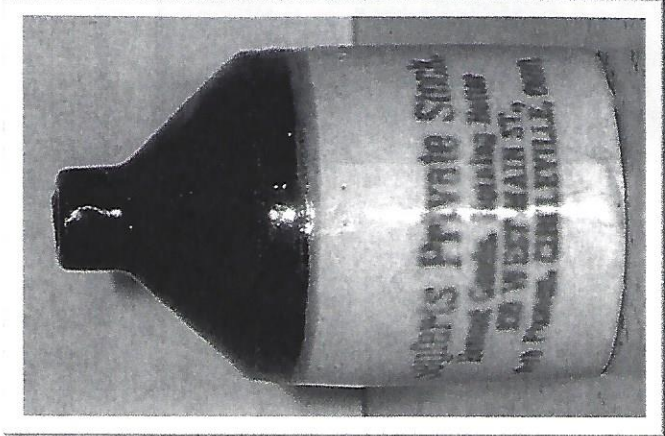


Figure 8

1907, Albert Hossfeld directed the erection of a large building on Second Street between Court and Ludlow streets. It became the home of his liquor operation. He also owned the Hamilton Hotel on the site. The Hossfeld mini jug shown here (Fig. 10) can be dated between 1904 and 1916.



The final mini jug (Fig. 11) also was a holiday giveaway, with good wishes for Christmas and the New Year. It was from Andy Niedenthal who ran a liquor establishment in Hamilton, Ohio, virtually on the city line with

Figure 9

Cincinnati. Niedenthal was born in Indiana in 1876, according to the 1900 U.S. census, which found him, age 34, living in Hamilton with his wife and family, engaged in the liquor trade.

Many of these jugs can claim antique status of 100 or more years old and others are approaching that designation. It is doubtful that any were produced after Ohio voted to go dry in 1916 and certainly none after National Prohibition in 1920. Following Repeal

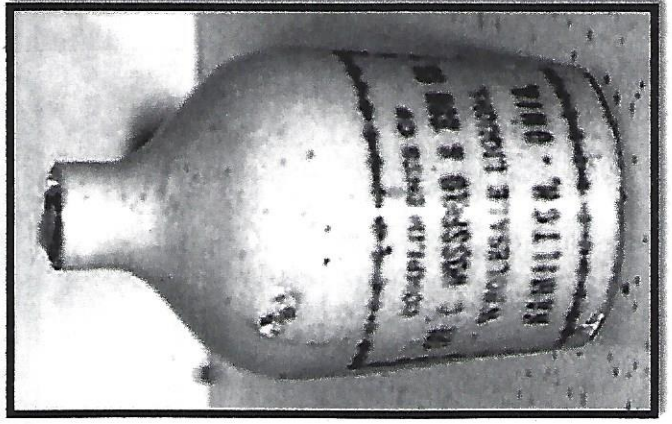


Figure 10

laws were enacted to regulate liquor sales that prohibited giving away whiskey in any size container, thus relegating the handout mini jug to a thing of the past. For collectors, however, it means more sure knowledge of their age.

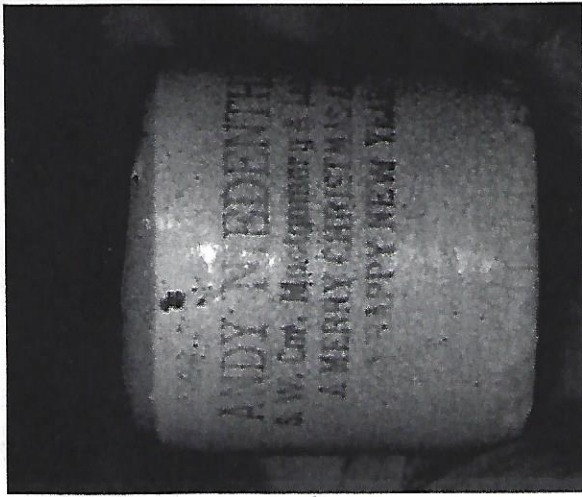


Figure 11

Notes: The materials for this article were obtained from a number of Internet sources and the images from a range of auction and other sites.
Illustrations:

- Fig. 1: Freund Side #1
- Fig. 2: Freund Side #2
- Fig. 3: Marsick & Kohl
- Fig. 4: Harry Klein
- Fig. 5: Wm. C. Peter
- Fig. 6: L. F. Eckroate
- Fig. 7: Dennison's Green Mill
- Fig. 8: Wilson & Rosser
- Fig. 9: Seyfert Private Stock
- Fig. 10: Hossfeld & Son
- Fig. 11: Andy Niedenthal