

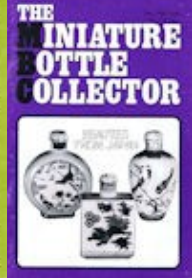
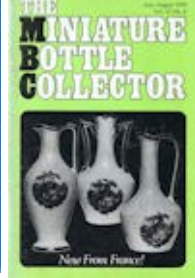
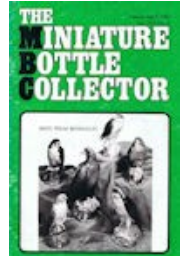
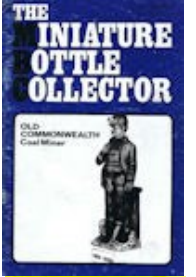
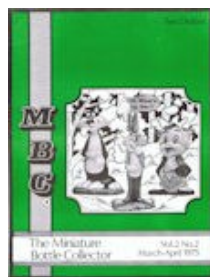
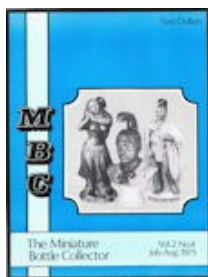
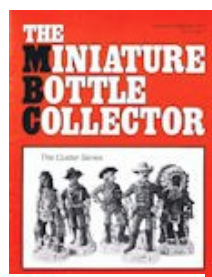
The Loss of a Legend



David Spaid

March 1, 1942-November 12, 2022

Gone but not Forgotten



If you seriously collected mini bottles over the last 40 years, whether you knew him or not, David Spaid directly or indirectly affected your collection and collecting. From 1974 to 2005 he brought us the Miniature Bottle Collector Magazine. 184 issues total. Long before the internet, he helped connect collectors with each other. He also Published the PBR (Pictorial Bottle Review) that covered large and small bottles as well as published The Whiskey Miniature Bottle Collection Vol 1 and Vol 2 (scotch whiskey). These publications have long been fantastic sources of information and history of the bottle collecting world. In addition under the MBC brand he brought us over 100 different mini bottles that I am sure many of you have seen and most likely have a few in your collections. He was also influential in the starting of multiple mini bottle collecting clubs including the Lilliputian club out of Southern California and our own MMBC club.

I knew of David from other collectors in the Northwest Club and from the MBC Magazine and Articles he wrote for the MMBC newsletter. I contacted him through the advice of one of our Northwest Miniature club members whose husband had passed and I was helping her sell their 10,000 bottle collection. I contacted David to help me with pricing of the bottles. He was genuinely helpful and honest and we continued to stay in touch. When I came to my first MMBC show and met him in person he was just as gracious and friendly in person. Over the years we exchanged bottles, I would let him know when I found new things and he would contact me with bottles he thought I would be interested in. When I started writing the newsletter he was always helpful getting me articles when I asked (and even when I didn't) and would even occasionally send me "care packages" consisting of old published materials (advertising, bottle pictures, price lists etc.) to give me material I could use for the newsletter. My absinthe and Scotch Collection would not be what it is without him. He contacted me when he was going to downsize his Absinthes offering me about 100 or so bottles, I told him I didn't have the extra money for the purchase at the time, he sent them and told me to just make payments when I could. He kept "finding" new scotches from his collection and I would get and email asking if I needed it, The pricing was always fair and he would just hold the bottles until he had a full box for me.

He had a great sense of Humor. In 2014 I included an Article "know your Fellow Collector" in which I made up a story about him inventing the miniature Bottle. After he got the newsletter he e-mailed me to tell me him and Marcia got a good laugh from it and said the only problem now is some people will probably believe the story.



I loved to talk with him and hear his stories, they weren't just about a particular bottle or brand it was also about the people that were making and selling the bottles or about a bottle hunting expedition. The stories were always fascinating and many times they were also funny.

There is always talk about the best in something, that conversation often turns into the "Mount Rushmore of" (the 4 best people or things). Without doubt David Spaid would make the Mount Rushmore of Mini Bottle Collectors (feel free to debate the other 3 spots but his spot is secure).

Seva sent me a link and asked if I had seen it, I had not. It was a YouTube Video from some time in 2020 in which Scott Spaid was interviewing his father about bottle collecting. It was great to see (and hear) a few more of David's stories. If you haven't seen it (or even if you have) I would recommend viewing it here is the link:

[Collector Conversations: David and Scott Spaid - YouTube](#)

Some things you may or may not have known about David. He played trumpet in a band, worked in the Movie Industry, and taught English. He bought Miniature Bottle Collector and Pictorial Bottle Review in the mid70's off the guy who started them. He claimed he never made any money from MBC (PBR was quickly closed), and lost money on later editions, but kept it going to connect the various clubs pre-internet. (This came from David Smith)

Some more things (from Butch Jones) David Wrote for PBR before branching out and publishing the MBC magazine for 32 years He Co-produced 4 different ceramic miniature bottles series(MBC, Silver State Specialties, Chiisai Bin, Hamms Beer bears) He was probably the most knowledgeable miniature bottle that lived or is living. He also had one of the premier Giveaway collections in the world.

The word I keep hearing (and seeing) about David is Mentor. He was truly an Ambassador for this hobby. He was constantly helping and educating everyone he came in contact with, whether it was information about a particular bottle, where to find bottle you were looking for or contacting you about a bottle he found that he knew you might be interested in. He always treated others with kindness and fairness and was truly a friend to all and will be missed by many. He leaves a vacancy in the Bottle collecting world that will be difficult (or impossible) to fill. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family. A Memorial is planned for April in St. Louis.





" The first recollection I have of meeting David Spaid was through the Brisco Publication of The Miniature Bottle Collector. One correspondence after another led to a friendship that extended over fifty years.

During our trips to California, Florence and I had enjoyable times visiting with David and Marcia. Our bottle excursions were always enjoyable and even surprising as we ventured into Mexico.

I will miss our talks about collecting, marketing of the liquor industry in general, newly released minis and, as time went on, reminiscing about the past. David was a true collector and an ethical and honest businessman. His devotion to the hobby and fellow collectors set a standard that contributed to the success of any association he was a part of.

He will be missed. I will miss him. His character and enthusiasm will be admired and remembered.

Florence and I extend our deepest sympathy to Marcia and the Spaid family. "—Vic Visalli

David Spaid would often email me with pictures of bottles he knew I would like to buy, often from collections he had acquired or from boxes he finally opened. I looked forward to his messages and great bottles he would offer me. Many times they were one-of-a-kind. I will truly miss him. He inspired me in many ways to be a better miniature bottle collector. -- Father Joe

I was very saddened by the news of David's death. He was the first collector with whom I started exchanging miniatures. My correspondence with him is carefully stored in my archives, including his excellent magazine, which I subscribed to for many years. It's been 30 years since I corresponded with him, and although we never met, I think we were still good friends. Honor his memory! Jaroslav Kuba

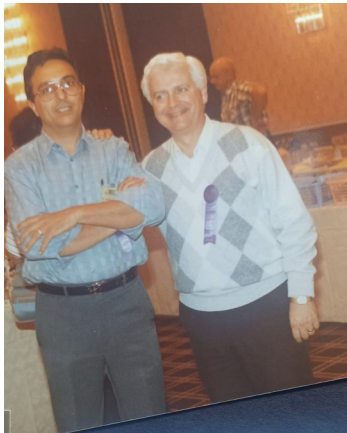
The last contact David this year also talked about we would attend the Argentine miniature Party. Unfortunately, due to HONG KONG quarantine policy, he did not attend due to his poor health, and we did not meet again in the end. David's departure is definitely a big loss for the miniature collector. He is definitely a great man in the miniature collector! R.I.P —Man's Chan





Today David Spaid passed away, friend, colleague collector, editor of Miniature Bottle Collector magazine, dedicated his life to bottles, that's why I say talking about David is talking about all the bottles, it was an honor to meet him in the 70's and privilege to work with his magazine.

Rest in peace David—Alfredo Spinelli



1975 Los Angeles, USA: Visitando a David Spaid en su casa, David aparte de ser coleccionista publicaba la revista especializada en botellitas THE MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR, publicación en la que Alfredo colaboraba con artículos



This November 13 has been a day of painful memory for me.

My great friend and collector David Spaid is gone forever.

He was a great fighter against his disease, but finally he couldn't win that war. However, and until the last moment of his stay at home in front of the computer, we continued to exchange information, and he even asked me for an old set from our club, which unfortunately he did not have time to enjoy.

I will always remember him as that great person, kind and affable, whose face it always reflected.

Those great moments spent with him, Marcia and other collector friends at his house, the meetings in St. Louis and in Barcelona at an annual meeting of the CECBL comes to my mind.

Unfortunately, in recent years we have not only lost him, but other great friends such as Jim Crawford, John Sullivan, Elvio Alessandria, and a little further back, the generous and kind Derman Villegas. Go to all of them my warmest memory and to their families all my sympathy.

Having met and enjoyed the friendship of all these people has been the best of this hobby over the years.

Luis Campos

Adding on to what was said by Alfredo, I join the condolences for the passing of David Spaid, who was the Editor of the iconic Minibottle Collector (MBC) magazine from 1974 to 2005. 184 numbers !!!!

But on top of this cyclopic job, he was a great person always willing to help his fellow collectors, as in our case. I have the fondest memories of him at every encounter we shared in St Louis.

Just a year ago, and on the occasion of the founding of our Club and the first issue of our magazine, I sent it to him and asked for permission to have on our website the pdf's of the magazine and to be able to reproduce some MBC articles. Here's his so supportive response:

Dear Jorge, delighted to hear from you. Thank you for sending the first issue of the magazine for your club. You have my complete authorization to use anything you want from the MBC and thank you for your kind words about the magazine and my efforts to keep mini bottle collecting going wherever I can.

Right now I am extremely busy with health issues (I suffer from extreme anemia) and will read your first issue probably tomorrow.

In any case, I applaud you for doing it and for founding the new Argentine club.

All my best, David

Rest in Peace David—Jorge Rey Valzacchi

I will end with this reprint of an Article from 2014, it was one of my favorites to do.

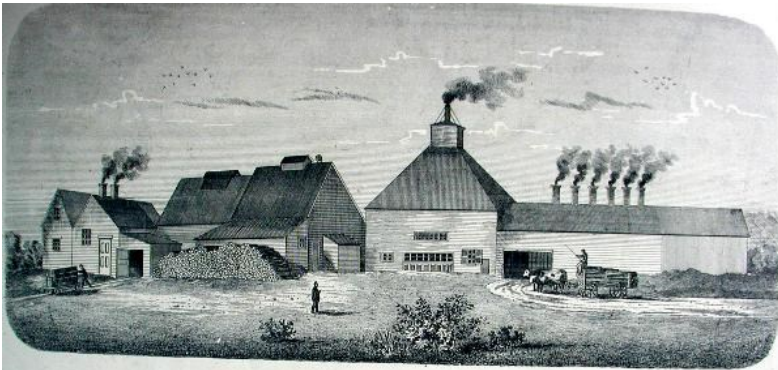
KNOW YOUR FELLOW COLLECTOR

David Spaid

Many people don't know this but I actually invented the Mini bottle. Here is how it happened, on my 10th birthday after working for 5 years in the coal mines of West Virginia I got a job at the largest bottle manufacturing plant in the state. One day after work I was messing around with the bottle molds and decided to make a tiny one. Next day during production we ran a few dozen of my "little bottle". I showed them to my dad and he thought they were a great idea. I quit my job at the bottle manufacturing plant and my dad drove me to Kentucky where I went from distillery to distillery showing my bottle.



Most of the distilleries liked the idea of having "sample bottles" as they called them.. With the money I had saved from working in the mines I started my own Mini Bottle production plant and sold the bottles to most of the distilleries in Kentucky. The idea caught on and soon just about every distillery in the world were making mini versions of their bottles for samples.

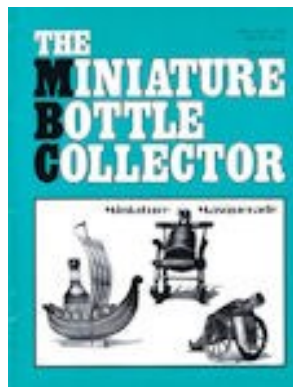


We experimented with different shapes and eventually decided to try and make little ceramic bottles that could be sold at gift shops. People really liked these bottles so I went around and helped organize collector clubs, I later started publishing a magazine so I could help spread the word about these bottles. While I was manufacturing bottles I started collecting the different variations. At one time I had 259,762 different bottles but I found I had to specialize since there was no more room in my house. I trimmed my collection to include only unusual bottles and hard to find bottles. Currently my collection stands at 12 bottles, but they are 12 really unusual and hard to find bottles. I know some of you are saying "Hey wait David I have seen mini bottles that are older than you, if you invented mini bottles how can you explain that?" I have only one word for you....Fakes.



**One of the 12
bottles left in
my collection**

**This is the most
unusual and
hardest to find**



EDITOR'S NOTE: Some (or all) of this information may or may not be true, if I receive any corrections to this Know your fellow collector article I will publish them in a future newsletter.