

## Recent Finds

*From Jack Sullivan*

For two decades, Tim Kearns of Chardon, Ohio, and I have been chasing rumors about the existence of previously unlisted Knowles, Taylor and Knowles (KT&K) whiskey jugs produced in East Liverpool, Ohio. Tim is the author of *American Bone China* about KT&K, a book that features many of the firm's whiskeys.

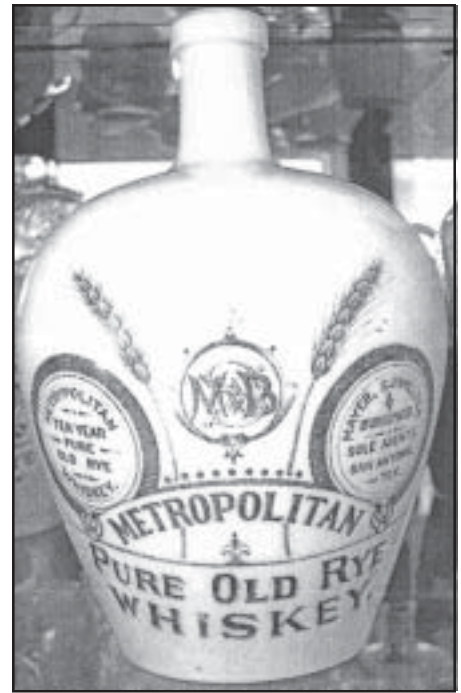
One of the elusive jugs was reported to be "Metropolitan" whiskey. But years of looking failed to turn up an example. In early September, however, John DeGrafft of Sun Lakes, Ariz., purchased the semi-porcelain container shown here, labeled "Metropolitan Old Rye Whiskey" and bearing the KT&K mark on the bottom. In addition to being a write and authority on American sarsaparilla bottles, John is an avid collector of whiskey ceramics. The seller told him that the jug was found in the estate of an elderly woman in San Antonio, Texas.

This KT&K whiskey jug bears a purple overglaze transfer. It displays a crest that incorporates the initials MS&B, for Mayer, Schmelter & Burgower. That firm was well-known in San Antonio for its large downtown mercantile store. It also is said at one time to have stored goods at the nearby Alamo Barracks. MS&B's wholesale liquor sales were at 2 East Commerce Street.

An 1891 San Antonio city directory provides information on the partners. Mayer was Max B. Mayer, whose residence was at 311 Levaco Street. Schmelter's first name was Harry and he lived at 415 Water Street. The third partner was Herman Burgower; his residence address was not given.

"Metropolitan" is listed in Robert Snyder's *Whiskey Brands* as an unregistered brand from the Bernheim Brothers of Louisville, Kentucky. MS&B claims on the jug to be the "sole agent" for Metropolitan in the San Antonio area.

Another rumored, but elusive, KT&K reputedly is labeled "Old Colony Bourbon." Let's hope that becomes a "new find" very soon!



*From Ralph Van Brocklin*

An interesting half pint Olympia-style flask embossed John Lollins / Salt Lake City / Utah was recently sold on eBay for \$122.50. Although not truly a "new find", it is largely unknown to collectors outside of Utah.

Found in clear coloration in both the pint and half-pint capacities, the larger size is considerably more scarce.

The first listing for John Lollins I was able to locate was in the 1869 E. L. Sloane & Co directory for Utah. He is not listed in the 1867 G. Owens Salt Lake City directory and no 1868 directory was available through the Utah Historical Society Library. The initial listing indicates that he is the proprietor of the Railroad Saloon on East Temple between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Locations for his business are variable over the next 15 years. A complete listing is not possible due to gaps in years of early directories available, but the following summarizes what I was able to find:

- 1872 - Saloon, Main Street
- 1874 - Saloonkeeper, East Temple btwn 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> South
- 1878 - Saloon, 64 East Temple
- 1879 - Liquor Dealer, 4<sup>th</sup> South btwn 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> West
- 1883-4 - Saloon, 111 Main
- 1884 - Saloonkeeper, 228 West 4<sup>th</sup> South

In the 1885-6 directory, he is listed at 129 S. Main, a location at which he remains a remarkable 30 additional years, shortened only due to his death on April 5, 1915, at 75 years of age. His business was listed as a saloon through 1898, following which listings are for "Wines, Liquors & Cigars."

The business was operated as Lollins Buffet by sons Carl and Victor following his death. Each had been involved in the business as clerks or bartenders for several years. I am aware that they maintained the business at least through 1917, however I did not research the years following the advent of Prohibition.

