



Collecting OWL DRUG STORE Stuff

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WHISKEY TOP OWLS

Whiskey top Owl bottles are the Owl bottles that have the tops that were made famous in marketing whiskey from the 1800s to the 1920s. Closure was with a cork, aluminum colored cap and sometimes wire as a bail. These bottles come in clear,

amber and green. Some of the products bottled were: whiskey, wine, olive oil, vinegar and probably toilet water (Florida water).

All examples that I have ever seen have one-winged Owls. I also have never seen a labeled green whiskey top, but old-time Owl collectors have told me that toilet water was marketed in these beauties. The green is the rarest and brings a very nice price at sale. There is one other rare clear whiskey top of which

I have only seen one and was told of one more, that being a large clear example with the Owl perched on the reversed side (left) of the pestle. This was probably an error in the manufacture of the mold.

The clear ones can also be found in sun-colored amethyst which means glass generally manufactured prior to 1914. The

amber ones can be found in dark amber, medium amber and honey amber. All are sought by collectors and all come in various strikes and conditions. The amber ones sometimes have many seed bubbles and are very beautiful, but the green one is like finding "gold." I once saw a cobalt blue one at a bottle show, but it was badly stained. I found out later that it had been intentionally stained and colored - a fake!

Like all Owl Drug Store bottles there are variants to the height, size and of course the embossed Owl figure. I have provided a photograph of twelve bottles all with different Owls and height ranging from 11 3/4 inches to 6 1/4 inches.

Clear ones: 11 3/4 inches, 11 1/2 inches, 11 inches, 10 3/8 inches, 8 inches, 6 1/4 inches

Amber: 11 3/4 inches

Green: 8 1/4 inches

Who knows what else is out there?

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