

CrownCappers' Exchange



The Official Magazine Of The Crowncap Collectors Society International

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Welcome to CCSI Online

Home of the Crowncap Collectors Society International

Check it out!
CCSI's Crowncap Database.

Crown count: 0 1 4 5 8 1



CCSI Website - A new look and feel!

We have renewed the CCSI website with a new look and feel and some improvements. Please feel free to look around and discover what CCSI is all about.

CrownCappers' Exchange

The Official Magazine Of The Crowncap Collectors Society International

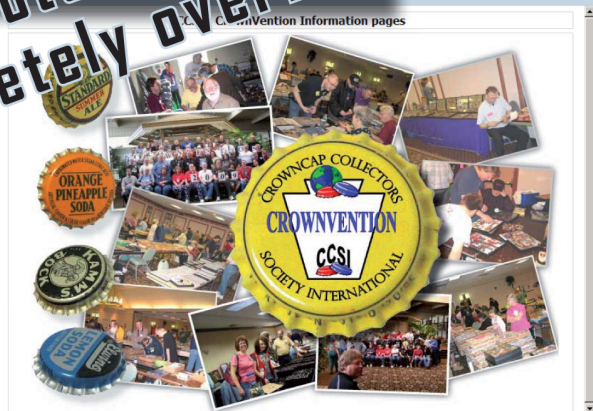


Welcome, you have reached the home of the biggest club for Crowncap Collectors. CCSI is all about crown cap collecting. [read more...](#)



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completely overhauled!

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Crowncap Collectors Society International (GMT -06:00)

- Crownies from Down Under
- Crowns the hard way
- The Collecting Gene
- Member profile: Dale Shealy
- Crowntainers
- A challenge to all CCSI members



New Members

CCSI would like to welcome our newest members

<p>David Regenfuss (# 596) <i>Racine, Wisconsin, USA</i> <i>Birth Year: 1960</i> <i>Started collecting: 1976</i> <i>Primarily United States and</i> <i>Canada beer and soda crowns.</i> <i>regen@tds.net</i></p>	<p>John Griffiths (# 597) <i>Wharton, Texas, USA</i> <i>Birth Year: 1974</i> <i>Started collecting: 2008</i> <i>coastalgriff@yahoo.com</i></p>	<p>Nancee King (# 598) <i>Rolla, Missouri, USA</i> <i>Birth Year: 1934</i> <i>Started collecting: 2005</i> <i>Mostly interested in older caps</i> <i>no longer in production.</i> <i>nandlking@embarqmail.com</i></p>
<p>James Goin (# 599) <i>Leonardtown, Maryland, USA</i> <i>Birth Year: 1945</i> <i>Started collecting: 2009</i> <i>Beer caps from all over the</i> <i>world</i> <i>jimgo@md.metrocast.net</i></p>	<p>Caleb Skinner (# 600) <i>Fountain, Colorado, USA</i> <i>Birth Year: 1997</i> <i>ArmyCaleb97@yahoo.com</i></p>	<p>Collin Potter (# 601) <i>Hamilton, Ontario, Canada</i> <i>Birth Year: 1964</i> <i>potters@sympatico.ca</i></p>
<p>Nancy Strubin (# 602) <i>Warrenville, Illinois, USA</i> <i>Birth Year: 1955</i> <i>nancycoin@comcast.net</i></p>	<p>James McCaffrey (# 603) <i>Waretown, New Jersey, USA</i> <i>Birth Year: 1966</i> <i>Started collecting: 2008</i> <i>jmc189@comcast.net</i></p>	<p>David Robinson (# 604) <i>Dallas, Texas, USA</i> <i>Birth Year: 1997</i> <i>Main interest is soda, especially</i> <i>root beer.</i> <i>gordon.robinson@dallascity-</i> <i>hall.com</i></p>

CCSI Contributors 2009

Lance Wood (CCSI # 443)

Contributors 2009 is a recognition of members who made voluntary donations to support CCSI. A big 'Thank You' to all contributors as well as all renewing members.

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CrownCappers' Exchange

Official Magazine of

CCSI

Crowncap Collectors Society International

The CCSI is an organization formed by and for collectors of bottle caps (also known as crowns or crown caps). The club is dedicated to serving the needs of both new and longtime collectors and to promoting crowns as a major collectible.

It promotes the widespread exchange of crowns, the growth of knowledge, ethical practices, and the documentation and preservation of crown history.

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*The CrownCappers' Exchange is published three times per year
Submit your articles for the February issue before January 15, 2010*

President's Message



Greetings, CrownCappers, and Welcome to our new members. You are sure to enjoy the wealth of information and images in this new great issue, put together by Wietze Veld but written by you, the members. Keep those articles coming!

The club also needs the involvement of members to help with the tasks necessary to deliver the benefits of the club to members. It doesn't just happen by itself – it requires some effort and commitment, which should be shared among the members. So please seriously consider stepping up to fill one of these important tasks, whichever best fits your interest and, maybe, your experience.

Treasurer and Membership Secretary collects dues, contributions, and other income, keeps it in a bank account, and pays out the expenses such as the website and printing costs, and keeps detailed records of all the aforementioned, making at least an annual report such as found in this issue. Also keeps the member data base and sees that new members receive their initial benefits.

Printing and Mailing Agent receives the compiled magazine from the Editor, seeks and selects a good quality reasonably priced printer, takes delivery of the printed copies and mails them to the members, three times a year.

Magazine Editor solicits, receives, selects, edits, compiles, and lays out articles for the magazine, three times a year.

Secretary is a Board Member who announces the Board meetings and records the minutes, and occasionally writes, or at least signs, letters on behalf of the club.

Please contact me right away if you can help out in one of these ways – thanks!

Barry

CCSI Treasury Report

Lance Wood (CCSI # 443)

Beginning Balance	1452.07
Income	
CrownVention '08	246.00
Dues	3133.00
Contributions	1317.96
Total Income	4696.96
Expenses	
Magazines #57,#58, #59	2885.84
Website	214.20
Paypal Fees	74.48
Badges from Keystone	75.37
Total Expenses	3249.89
Ending Balance	2899.14
Net Gain for 2008	1447.07

Editor's Note



Recently the CCSI Board of Directors had a discussion about the content of our magazine. The discussion was about the ratio of beer- to soda-crown articles and the ratio of articles about North American crowns to crowns from outside North America. The concern is to achieve a better balance.

At the end of July I emailed each and every member having an email address. I may have missed one or two due to either technical problems or an invalid email address. The response was beyond my expectation. Many members responded quickly and came through with quite a number of articles for publication. For this I sincerely say: THANK YOU VERY MUCH ! The magazine is for the members and by the members, and in this way you, the members, have spoken by deciding to submit an article for the magazine.

If you had an article in mind but were not able to get it ready for this October issue, you can still submit it for the February issue. Or if you did submit an article for this issue and it has not been published, it will be published in a later issue.

As you can see on the front page of this magazine, the CCSI website has been completely overhauled with a new layout and some major changes to the inner workings of the website. The functionality remains the same, with some minor improvements to make the website more user-friendly. This overhaul also includes an upgrade to the way in which past issues of the CCSI magazine were offered. Many past issues are downloadable via the website in PDF (Portable Document Format), a standard now very commonly used all over the world.

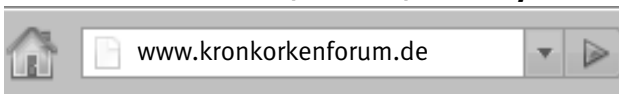
The two holographic crowns displayed on the front page are promotional crowns from Blechwarenfabrik Limburg GmbH and Rauh GmbH & Co.KG, Germany.

On a personal note, I recently decided to retire from my functions as magazine editor and board member of the CCSI. It has been a blast, working together with the CCSI board and you, the members. I got the opportunity to build an entire website application and learn a lot of new things while building it, I was able to visit CrownVention three times, guided by my wonderful hosts --just mentioning this brings a big smile to my face-- and of course I was able to learn some interesting new things producing the magazine.

This October issue will not be my last. To give the board ample time to find a new editor --you can apply for the job as of right now!-- my last issue will be the February 2010 issue.

Wietze

**Das KronkorkenForum Tauschtreffen 2010
5,6 and 7 March 2010
Seifhennersdorf, Sachsen, Germany**



Crowntainers

Jeff Meyers (CCSI # 175)

When we consider the containers that crowns are used to seal, glass bottles and cone-top cans generally come to mind. The product inside is usually a beverage like beer, water, or soda. Our friends overseas may also think of milk, fruit juice, wine, or even sauces and cooking oils. But many collectors do not realize that crowns were also used to seal containers filled with products that were never intended for human consumption: things like dry gas, radiator sealers, engine oil additives, and windshield washer solvent.



Crowns from products such as these were (and still are) generally very hard to find for several reasons. First, these products were never produced in the quantities of any type of beverage.

Second, these would have been opened in a garage or gas station --remember full-service gas stations? -- and the crown would have been discarded into the nearest trash receptacle. Third, the majority of the crowns used by manufacturers of automotive products were blank. And lastly, this type of container has all but disappeared, and these products are now in more consumer-friendly resealable plastic bottles. So unless you had access to the

trash can of your nearest garage or purchased the product yourself, chances are that you would not be adding one of the more elusive categories of crowns to your collection.

My childhood collection consisted of three dry gas crowns. One was a Gas Guard crown. A friend and I found two full cans of the stuff near a pull-off along a back road. Someone must have been cleaning out their trunk and left the trash behind which included the cans. I had a cork-lined Cristy crown that I found in the parking lot of a gas station, and a completely flattened Heet crown that was found near the vacuum cleaners at a car wash. I still have all three.

Living in Central Pennsylvania has its advantages. I live in an area where some of the largest automotive-related swap meets in the world take place. The Spring and Fall Carlisle events, Das Awkscht Fescht in Macungie, and the AACA fall meet in Hershey have all yielded some fantastic crown finds over the years.



- The Heet bottle is one of my favorites and is the oldest automotive crowntainer I have. The crown has the “Barrel” style Hutchinson logo on the skirt, which should make this a pre-war product. This is the only bottled automotive product I’ve seen that was sealed with a standard size crown. Heet crowns have turned up in other colors too. The pale gold with dark blue lettering is the newer, more common version.
- The Alemite crown has been found in yellow with a red “A” on it as well.
- The early Cristy crown has also been found in silver with red lettering.
- Atlas was notorious for using blank crowns on their cans. I was thrilled to find this one last year with a printed crown.
- The blue Cristy can has a copyright of 1977. The crown is cork-lined. This is one of the few non-beverage crowns that I found as a child, although it was damaged from the can being opened with pliers. I was glad to find this can with a nice crown for \$1.00 at the spring Carlisle event in April.
- The Miracle Power has a copyright of 1979 and the can has some classic 70’s graphics on its paper label.
- The Penray crown was recently pictured on one of the forums. I think the question was, “Is this beer or soda and which country is it from?” Now we know...

[A good overview of cans, including a detailed description and history of the Crowntainer (although limited as relating to use by breweries only) is at <http://www.crowntainer-central.com>] - Editor.



Besides the Crowntainers, Jeff submitted these neat images of a Log Cabin maple syrup bottle with unique flip crown.



The Collecting Gene

Donn Neal (CCSI # 543)

Each of us, I suppose, has our own explanation of why we collect these useless, disposable metal disks, and how we began to do so. In my case, it was a trip to the Middle East (Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Egypt) in 1974. I wanted to bring home some unusual mementos for my two young sons. As an underpaid college professor at the time, that had to be free or at least inexpensive. I settled on bottle caps for one boy and small rocks for the other.

My sons were suitably impressed for about a week, and that was that. But I took up both newly hatched collections and decided to continue them myself. I justified collecting bottle caps because during the 1970s it appeared as if traditional crowns might be going the way of the buggy whip, to be replaced by those ghastly aluminum twist-off seals. But the real truth is that, undoubtedly like many of you, I have “the collecting gene”. Coins, postcards, matchbooks, phonograph records, hotel stationery (and, yes, those rocks) – you name it, I have collected it, or still do. (Note that most of these other items are also free or inexpensive. True to my half-Dutch heritage, I am a notorious tightwad.)

Add to these collections of ephemera those of such intangible things as airports I have flown into, U.S. state capitol buildings I have visited, lighthouses I have photographed, and many more – you have all the evidence you need that I have the collecting disease in a bad way. (Or in a good way, if you like to relieve the tedium of everyday life by keeping track of things like collectibles, either real or imaginary.) For me I suppose it is the thrill of the hunt – the desire to add that one more item I do not have – that keeps me going, even if I realize deep down that reaching the goal of a “complete” collection is impossible.

I wish I had collected bottle caps as a youngster, for I would love to have some of those old crowns now! But from 1974, I slowly but steadily added the odd bottle cap or two at a time to the little collection. I was not an aggressive collector then (I had a demanding job and traveled quite frequently), but if a new crown came along I dutifully snapped it up and added it to my collection. But I depended entirely on what appeared, fortuitously, along my path.

My collecting philosophy has remained unchanged all these years: I collect anything that is a “true” traditional bottle cap, with crimps around the skirt, whatever the product. I am fanatical about identifying everything I have, including the maker. (I have fewer than forty unknowns.) I arrange my collection – now in a Word Perfect database, which is hardly perfect in fact but I am stuck with it – in the order in which I added the crown to my holdings.



The array of colors and designs on bottle caps is what has fascinated me, along with the idea that all these small metallic objects have come together, in a unique way and in my possession, from all over the world. I prefer an attractive and colorful design, but an ordinary design is acceptable so long as it is new for me. I do not care what is underneath the bottle cap, or the factory sign. I do collect variations on crowns I already have, but only if they are significant. (That is, a word change in the list of ingredients is not significant but adding “Twist” to the crown’s design or an alteration in the color is.)

My bottle cap collection (one of about twenty collections I now have) is unusual in that I take donations for it. This is because I myself do not drink alcohol. Thus for new finds I have depended largely on friends, barmaids I could cultivate, and what I could find on the street. I have several friends who regularly save crowns for me and send them to me a couple of times a year. I am not adverse to buying a beer for a pal if he will give me the crown, and I have occasionally even bought a beer and poured it out if I really lusted for the bottle cap. (Forgive me, beer lovers.) I had one job where I had to purchase refreshments for receptions in various American midwestern states, and I was able to indulge my hobby by buying whatever was local or different – an indulgence that frequently puzzled those attendees who were reaching into the tub for a beer, expecting a Budweiser.

I store my collection on thin wooden strips, to which the crowns are lightly glued in the order of acquisition. Although a perfect bottle cap is a work of art, in some ways I prefer the used ones; I like to say that dents and scuffs, and even some rust, on a bottle cap give it character and personality. If I find a better example later on, I do not replace the original: for me, the point is the order in which I added that bottle cap to my “permanent collection.”

Each strip of wood is about forty-eight inches and holds forty crowns; I am nearing two hundred strips now. These strips have made our several moves from city to city easier (they travel well in wardrobe boxes, and if a crown comes unglued in transit it is still in the box), but nearly 200 of them do take up room in our small living space. With the advent of digital cameras, I have been able to photograph each wooden strip and keep the images on my computer so that I no longer have to consult the strips themselves very often when checking for duplicates.

Only during the last half-dozen years, after my retirement from work, have I become truly aggressive about collecting. Even more recently, I discovered trading. (Thank you, Mr. Internet.) Although I enjoy adding any new crown, naturally, in my opinion numbers alone do not make a collection. Thus it should not be a surprise that my quest now is to get at least one bottle cap from each country of the world. I have made good progress but still have about twenty or so to go and welcome the opportunity to trade for these. Thanks to Oscar Amestoy, who introduced me to CCSI and CC.I, and to my many new trading friends around the world, I now feel part of a kind of bottle cap community. Who would have thought that possible four decades ago?



Donn Neal

There seems to be a lot more interest from our “foreign guy” members in working up a trade than from our U.S. counterparts. I would love to see that change and I am always ready to hear from other U.S. collectors. OK, OK., maybe a foreign one every now and then. I have over 700 bottle cap traders, so send me an e-mail and let’s do a trade.

Finally, thanks to our club officers for all that they do to promote our hobby and to keep us all passionate about these wonderful little metal discs we call bottle caps.

Happy Collecting!

Finding a Treasure

Luis G. Acosta Rojas (CCSI # 512)

About twice a week I walk about seven kilometers to the post office. While doing so, I look to the ground in search of bottle caps and other collectibles, and put them into a bag for my collections and future trades.

One day in October 2008 on the side of the road I saw a crown in very bad shape, so I decided not to pick it up and went on with my trip. A little further down the road I found another crown like the other I saw before; I picked it up, put on my glasses and ... wow ! -- A dream came true: I was holding a very old and nice crown in my hands. Of course I went back to the first and took it also.

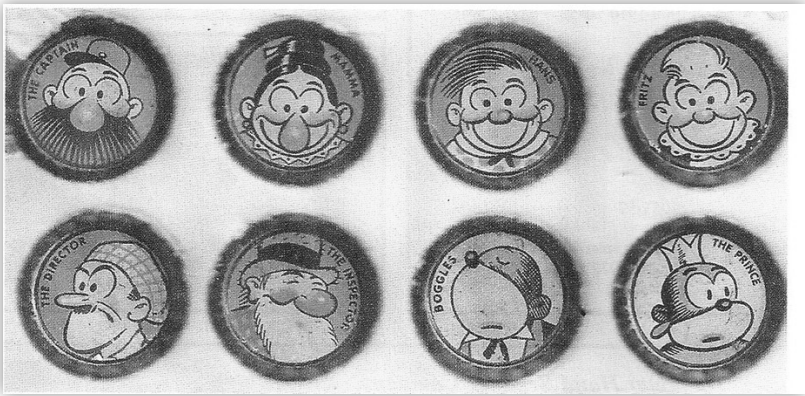
It may sound unbelievable, but I found about 20 of those wonderful crowns, one by one, on the road to Desamparado , province of San José, Costa Rica. For me it will be the biggest question for the rest of my days, “How did those crowns get there along a stretch of about 4 km?”



Crowns from the Empire State

John Vetter (CCSI # 30)

The brewers of the Empire State, New York, collectively, have issued an estimated over 500,000 different crowns at about 100 separate facilities since the days of Prohibition. Cork-backed crowns, probably the most popular among collectors, phased out in the 1960's. By 1968 they no longer were available. Probably the most desirable crowns of New York are the eight crown set of the Katzenjammer kids. They were issued by the Hittleman-Goldenrod brewery of Brooklyn in 1935. They each showed a character from the popular comic strip of the day. A premium, probably a free case of beer was awarded to anyone who would accumulate all eight crowns. Of course, as most such actions go, two of the designs were not readily available. (The Director and The Inspector shown at bottom left).



Although the above are the most sought after, my personal tastes are more closely associated with those depicted below. The Genesee Liebotschaner was one of the first in my collection-I can still hear my father recanting that he had to fish it out of Lake Michigan for me when I spotted it there as a mere 3½ year old. Similarly the Utica Club Bock crown was my daughter's favorite when she was 3½ years old.



The Black Bass Ale a very colorful 4-color crown always impressed me by its unique graphics, not being a fisherman it certainly was not because of the fish scheme. I liked Deer Park because I knew what a “Deer” and a “Park” were but was stumped by the “Shawangunk” (A mountain range near Port Jervis). The Fitzgerald which occurs in about ten color combinations all the same-no way-look closely at the motto below the design “Ilium fuit Troja est” the earlier version stated “Ilium fruit Troja est” which of course is in error “Ilium was, Troy is”.

3X, not a very colorful crown, but I had puzzled over it for more than 30 years. It turned out to be from City Brewing Corp. of New York City back in the 1930’s. The significance was explained on the bottle label - The product contains 33-1/3% Ale; 33-1/3%, Beer and 33-1/3% Porter. The Burkes Ale crown was found while rummaging around behind the closed Arthur Guinness (Burke Bros.) brewery in Long Island City, one Sunday morning back in the 1950’s. The City Club Half & Half, brewed by Greater New York Brewery was received from an old trading partner back in the 1940’s. I always thought that it had appealing graphics, moreover it is probably the rarest of the group.

Foro Tapón Corona Set

Jordi Bellaubi (CCSI # 572)

Following the way opened by the Pistoia and Sundhausen meeting sets, a new set of crown cap collectibles has been produced by the Italian crown manufacturer NewBox S.p.A. with the faces and nicknames of 57 members of the Foro Tapón Corona (Spanish crown cap forum). Just like with the other sets, and to stimulate trading, each collector got one complete set and about 1200 caps with his/her own face and nickname.

Displayed is a selection of ten crowns from the entire set of 57 crowns.



Sweethearts of the Crown



Todd Selbert (CCSI # 220)





CANADIAN CAP CHAT

Marg Walker (CCSI #41)



James Ready inside crown sets



Fig. 1

Most collectors are partial to sets which have pictures or events on the face of the cap. There are a limited number of collectors who collect insides. Some of these have pictures, phrases, events or games and it is quite fun to see how many one can acquire and even better when a set can be completed.

In this article I want to focus on James Ready Inside Set Crowns.

The design of the initial 5.5 crown was dark green with vertical lines “J.R. 5.5” in white. There was no inside printing. (Fig. 1)

With the introduction of the Light and Honey brands, all three crowns were solid colours (no vertical lines on 5.5) and the Ale subsequently followed suit.



Fig. 2

Crown designs were: (Fig. 2)

- Dark Green with “J.R. 5.5” in white
- Light Green with “J.R. LIGHT” in white
- Yellow with “J.R. HONEY” in white
- Dark Red with “J.R. ALE” IN white

Inside printing first appeared in 2006 on the J.R. 5.5, Light, and Honey brands. There were 7 different for each brand, with 6 of the phrases being the same. The 7th cap,



Fig. 3

unique to each brand, was the printing of the brand name – “J.R. 5.5”, “J.R. LIGHT”, “J.R. HONEY” on the inside of the crowns. (Fig. 3)

In early 2007 a new printing occurred on the inside of the James Ready crowns. This series was found on J.R. 5.5, J.R. LIGHT, and J.R. HONEY. This set consisted of 52 crowns. One of the insides reads: “CAP #23 OF 52, #53 COSTS TOO MUCH.” (Fig. 4)



Fig. 4

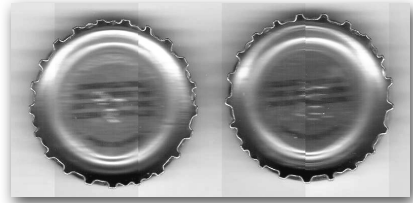


Fig. 5

Then in early 2008, new phrases appeared. These varied from the 2007 issue with the addition of the slogan “SPREAD THE WORD” below the phrases. (Fig. 5) The number of phrases were not known until one was found with “CONGRATULATIONS. YOU JUST OPENED THE LAST OF THE 101 CAPS. CELEBRATE WITH A J.R.” There was another cap that read: “COLLECT ALL 101 CAPS THEN SELL THEM ON EBAY FOR MILLIONS.” There were 101 in total, and they appeared on the J.R 5.5, J.R. LIGHT, AND J.R. ALE when it was introduced in 2008. The Honey brand was dropped when the J.R. Ale appeared in the marketplace.

How many crowns to date? Well that depends on your method of collecting. Here’s a summary list.

First series of insides	
Inside print	Quantity
J.R. 5.5	7
J.R. Light	7
J.R. Honey	7
Second series of insides (2007 issue)	
Inside print	Quantity
J.R. 5.5	52
J.R. Light	52
J.R. Honey	52
Third series of insides (2008 issue)	
Inside print	Quantity
J.R. 5.5	101
J.R. Light	101
J.R. Ale	101
Total	480

If you collect them all that would be 485 crowns. For collectors who want to trade for insides, I have many duplicates and I can also provide a list of each of the different sets.

Happy Collecting!

Pabst or Pabst ?

David Timmer (CCSI # 364)

When you're talking about beer, the name "Pabst" is well known as the Pabst Brewing Company, from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

When it comes to sodas, however, this is not always the case. There are two different brands of "Pabst" sodas out there. Most people don't know the difference.



The Pabst Brewing Company did make sodas during Prohibition, but there are very few examples of these soda crowns that exist.

There is another Pabst soda brand that is often mistakenly identified as being from the Pabst Brewery in Milwaukee. This other Pabst brand was made by the J. Pabst Sons Company, in Hamilton, Ohio. This family-owned bottler was in business from 1877 until about 1964. They held out as long as they could, but they just could not compete with the likes of Coca-Cola and Pepsi, who swallowed up the soda market.



Old crowns from Luxembourg

Lasse Pedersen (CCSI # 79)



Luxembourg is a small European country situated between its big neighbours: Germany, France, and Belgium. For many people, Luxembourg is well known for its friendliness towards the European Union as well as for the low taxes.

For collectors, Luxembourg is not well known for a large variety of different crowns; however, crowns do exist in the country, and many of them are very beautiful, in my humble opinion. On this page you can see 25 different old crowns from Luxembourg. They date back to the 1950's and include crowns of beer, soda, water, and wine. Most of the companies closed many years ago.



The crowns from Bofferding in row 1 bear a number (4 and 2 respectively). I have seen the numbers 1-12 which makes me believe that it's a kind of date: each number represents a month of the year. Can anyone confirm this theory?

Another interesting topic is the same design used by a number of various small companies. If you look at crown # 1 in row 3 as well as crown # 3 and # 4 in row 4, you will see an example of this: The name of the company on top, the telephone number in the middle, and the name of the town below.

I am sure that experts of the Luxembourgian telephone history will be able to tell us exactly when these numbers were in use.

CCSI Online

Wietze Veld (CCSI # 243)



To keep up with the fast changes on the web, the CCSI website needed a complete overhaul, with a more modern look and feel and a new engine to run the website. Both make the website more attractive and user-friendly, which ultimately leads to more visitors and more return visits. The biggest feature of the CCSI website has been the Crowncap Database. Installed in 2006, the database kept growing steadily but was very much underused. The Crowncap Database is a feature that should attract a lot of crown collectors to the CCSI website, but previously it was for CCSI members only. To make the CCSI website appealing to non-members as well, the Board decided to open it up to the public. So far, many 'web guests' have already made use of our online Crowncap Database. The database contains, at this writing, 14,900 different cork-lined crowns and their images. This is a great opportunity to see what's out there !

The members already involved in the operation of the website now form the Website Team. Each member of the Website Team is able to make changes and additions where necessary. They are also the people that will try to handle any questions or requests you submit via the website.



In May, another giant amongst the crown cap websites found a new home. Das Kronkorkenforum aka 'The German Forum' needed to move to a new host just like Davide's Crown Caps Forum. It too found

a new home on the server of Crowncaps.Info. The address for the KKF forum is still www.kronkorkenforum.de but can also be reached via kkf.crowncaps.info .

The Crowncaps.Info website has a great new feature called a 'Shout box'. A shout box is a variation on a chat room. It enables you to just enter some text -- give a shout-- just for fun. Meanwhile the CC.I shout box has evolved into a place where many trades are being setup between collectors from literally all over the world. Communication is done in many different languages, but mostly in English. The CC.I shout box is a members-only feature. Membership in CC.I is completely free, and every crown collector is more than welcome to join.

Another great feature there that has a huge following is the rating system. Every collector can give another collector one of the following ratings: "Highly recommended", "No problems", "I would not trade again", and "Problems during trading". The system was implemented earlier this year. A recently added feature, the totals of the received ratings, can now directly be seen on the member profile card. This helps to see directly if a collector can be trusted to trade with.



Four crown websites now reside on the Crowncaps.Info server. The costs for the server are now fully covered via donations from the collecting community.

Crowns the Hard Way

Ron Small (CCSI # 471)

Isn't it great when a buddy sends you an email, "Hey I've got a great old crown you need, want to trade?" And you have exactly the crown that he needs and the whole transaction is completed in a matter of minutes? Well, here's a story that's not at all like that. My quest to add a certain two bottle caps to my collection involved four different collectors, three bottle caps, more than two years, and a neon sign.



A friend of mine, Joe Murphy, called me up about three years ago and said, "Star Banner Ale - you need that crown, don't you? I just found three unused ones." "Awesome!" I said, "How much do you want to get for one?" immediately I thought of cash, since Joe Murphy is a descendant of the Murphys who owned the Star Brewing Company of Boston, Massachusetts, and he only collects breweriana from that brewery. I didn't have anything from Star to trade, so I thought cash might work.

"Nah, I don't really want to sell them. Come up with something to trade me," came Joe's disheartening reply. Now, Star was no Anheuser-Busch. There's precious little in the way of breweriana from the brewery, and what there is tends to be rather pricey. "Even though you have three of them...??" I asked. "Yep."



OK, well I really wanted a nice unused Star Banner Ale cap. It's always been a cap I liked, with strong orange, black, and red colors. And the one I had in my collection was half nice and half rusty. But I could see already that this wasn't going to happen quickly, and I put the issue in my "check back every 6 months" mental folder.

I checked back every six months, but Joe never wanted to sell one of the caps, and I never found anything from Star that would make for a good trade. Along the way, I found out that Joe had also originally found a single Star Pale Ale cap along with those three Star Banner Ales.

I never put the Star caps totally out of my mind, but after two years, they certainly seemed less attainable than they once had -- until one day I got an email from my friend John Govoni, who collects neon signs. He sent me a neat picture of a very old Star Ale neon. "Hmmm," thought I, "I don't see a trade in here exactly, but this is certainly something Joe would want."



SShortly thereafter I was at Dan Morean's (proprietor of breweriana.com) place slobbering over the amazing cans he has in his collection. One of them was a near mint Star Banner Ale conetop. "If you ever see a nice crown to go onto that can, let me know," Dan told me. Dan told me.

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Crownies from Down Under

John Breheny (CCSI # 516)

Commencing in the mid-19th century, from 1865 to 1933, my family operated breweries in Australia, as “Breheny Bros Breweries” at Sale, Bendigo, Ballarat, and Rockhampton. My Irish-born great-grand-uncle John originally learned the brewing trade at Carlton United in Melbourne, Victoria. He then took my grandfather and his five brothers under his wing and taught them the trade, eventually launching the Gippsland Brewery at Sale, Victoria. This beginning produced 25 Breheny master brewers among uncles, sons, and cousins over the following 140 years, something unsurpassed in Australia. The last two family brewers were two of my three sons, Matthew and David, who brewed for Grand Ridge Brewery locally over the past ten years.

Two of my uncles, Tom and Michael, were head brewers for over ten years for Swan, Tooth’s, and Toohey’s in the mid 1950s. From that family beginning, whilst on retirement leave in Canada in 2006, I got the capper’s bug, deciding to commence collecting crown caps (crownies), as an extension to my family’s brewing history over all those years.

One of Carlton United’s (CUB) signature beers is “Crown Lager”, and any fair dinkum die Aussie, refers to that as a “crownie”, hence my term of collecting crownies. Sadly, Breheny Bros. used only unbranded gold crown seals on their brews, to keep cost down, but I do have a dozen or so labels, as a memento.



Pictured here are 42 of some of my favourite Aussie crownies. On the first row are five vintage crowns from the CUB 1960-85 era, the only cork-lined crown being the blue Carlton C on the left. The second row are mainly all Tasmanian, with the Cascade cork-lined and the Boag the two oldest. The third row are all animal crowns, the swan and emu being cork-lined, both from Perth, W.A.

Down to the fifth row, one is an early “Redback” crown design, Matilda Bay. On the second-to-last row, most crowns are from now-defunct breweries, KB being Tooth’s, Sydney. The VB crown is from Victoria Bitter, Melbourne, export range. The bottom row highlights a variety of different Australian crowns. The left corner rooster is from the defunct Courage brewery. The Grand Ridge lyrebird is their original old crown, whilst the blue snowflake crown represents Carlton Cold’s new design.



My total crownie collection numbers 5000 different worldwide face crowns, of which approximately 250 are cork-lined. Most of my collection, over only 3 years, have been from buy/drink, blind trades of 100 crowns (25 trades in 10 countries), and purchasing on eBay, etc. “Keep on capping, regards from Australia.”

“Crowns the Hard Way” continued from page 21

“Hmmm,” thought I. “Dan, how much would you pay for a nice crown for that can?” Dan told me and I thought to myself, “I might be able to make this work.”

So, more than two years after that first phone call from Joe Murphy, I bought the neon from John Govoni, traded the neon to Joe Murphy for the three caps (2 Star Banner and 1 Star Pale) and a bit of cash, sold the extra Star Banner cap to Dan Morean, and when all was said and done, I had landed the two unused caps for a total of \$25 out of pocket. Like they say in eBay feedback, “A fast and painless transaction!”



Rules of acquisition

Mike Genovese (CCSI # 554)

Hello Fellow Collectors,

I've been collecting bottle caps since my first year of college, which was 1996. I first began collecting for a friend, and soon I was keeping the caps for myself.

Over the years I have used a few different methods to obtain caps for my collection. The first and most obvious is to drink the beer and save the cap. For some of you this may also include soda, but I collect mostly beer. A lot of people think this is the main reason I collect caps, and though it is a nice excuse to try new and exciting beers (or sodas), it is not the only reason.

It helps to tell your friends and family to save crowns too, especially when they are going on vacation. Another great, but expensive, way to get some rare caps is on eBay. When I first started collecting there was no eBay, so I had to drink the beer to get the cap. The evolution of eBay has made it much easier to get old and foreign caps. Trading with international collectors can add hundreds if not thousands of crowns to your collection, and can be much cheaper than eBay.

Now to my favorite method. I think this is the best way to get unused caps for your collection. It also really adds to your trade stock, which I think is almost as important as adding to your collection. Start out by putting together a spreadsheet full of American breweries. Once your sheet is complete, go to the site of each brewery and locate the contact email info. Fill in your spreadsheet with the email addresses, and for the sites that have an online "Contact Us" section, fill it in and note it on your sheet. When you have a good number of addresses filled in on your sheet, send out your emails requesting unused caps for your collection. You will find that some companies will send them out to you for nothing while most will ask you to send them a SASE (self addressed stamped envelope). When sending the SASE, I like to put \$1.50 to \$2.00 in stamps on it.

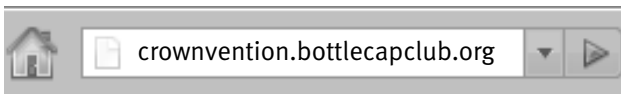
If you keep a good log of breweries and stats on who will send caps and how many they send, you can do this once a year, or whenever you notice a graphic change on a cap. My sheet contains about 500 breweries right now, and I have obtained a ton of caps using this method. If some international collectors could use this same technique, we could get some very good trades going.

Well, I hope you enjoyed my article, and if you are interested in trading some caps please email me at mike_geno@yahoo.com.

CrownVention XXI

24 - 27 March 2010

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, United States



A challenge to all CCSI members

John Vetter (CCSI # 30)

How many of you have accessed the CCSI crown database lately? The records show that approximately half of the active members have not. The whole operation of the database has been simplified, a “help” alternative is available at every turn, and the directions are related in simple English.

Here is the challenge: Find a cork-backed crown, possibly a favorite one from your collection, that is not listed among the 14,500+ already recorded, or perhaps you have a better specimen of one that is listed. Submit the image to one of the database editors and have them enter it under your name. This is our club and we all should participate to make it even better.

1. Simply go to <http://www.bottlecapclub.org>. This takes you to the CCSI Home page.
2. In the “Left hand menu” click on “CrownCap Database” then “Crown Cap Search”. This brings up the “Search” page.
3. Type the appropriate data into the “Description” box.
Also, you similarly can find crowns of a particular Location (City) by typing in the box provided and/or a particular “Country”, “State”, or “Product type” (beer, soda, etc.) by clicking on the adjacent “down arrow” button.
4. Click on “Search” at the top of the screen.

The resultant display will show all of the crowns in the database that match the criteria that you entered. Peruse the group, and for additional information regarding any particular crown, click on the crown image. If the crown of your possession is not shown, please contact a database editor via clicking on the “Contact” statement at the bottom of the left hand menu. A database editor will contact you and ask for you to send an image of the crown in an attachment to your reply, if that is possible.

In addition we need your help in identifying “duplicate” or seemingly “duplicate” crowns in the database. Any help along this line is appreciated. We welcome your comments and suggestions regarding the database. Especially welcome are suggestions as to how we can make it better and perhaps easier to use for our members. We realize that many members are not as computer-literate as the creators of the database, and we welcome your comments.

**Check it out !
CCSI's CrownCap
Database.
Crown count:**

0 1 4 9 0 0



Pietrology - A collectors' story

Pietro Clerici (CCSI # 80)

The following is a very interesting story about a collector who has been collecting for 33 years. It is a three-part story, the first two parts of which you can read in this issue. The third part will be published in the next issue of CrownCappers' Exchange.

- Editor

Part One: The beginning

Once upon a time there was a kid about to become a teenager, going hunting in Jugoslavia with his father. That kid was me, and Jugoslavia now doesn't exist anymore, but a bottlecap collector was born then, back in the seventies just before the Olympic games in Montreal -- Anyone still remember that year?

It was June, and we used to get up at 2:30am in order to hunt roe bucks; we were back at 9:00 in the morning, and before the next hunt at 5:00 in the afternoon, there was not much to do except eat and sleep, because we were in a little village with no touristic attractions at all. But that particular day, the 27th of June, we decided to visit some friends of ours who were hunting as well, and who were staying in a village not too far away.

After lunch I walked with a friend around the restaurant there. We found the remains of a fire, such as burnt pieces of food and plastic bottles (fabulous smell...) (In the old days, before internet and mobile phones, everything appeared very interesting after a pint of beer!)

By evening I had in my pockets a couple of bottle caps, and when I showed them to my father his words changed my life forever: "You should collect bottle caps from foreign countries!" A son often tries to go against the ideas of his father, so I decided to start a collection of every kind of bottle cap, not only from foreign countries; and also from beers, soft drinks, wines, etc.



I still remember the very first crown in my collection, and please be shocked: the Ora cap I am showing you had no value, in my opinion. But now I will never sell it and, moreover, I will never trade it with the same piece unless unused.

After the beginning of my new life, I felt sure to be the only bottle cap collector in the world, especially after some friends of mine started a collection as well, and then shortly thereafter I took over their crowns and grew to my first half a thousand.



Then I became a teen-ager, so girls became more important than crowns...

Part Two: Is there anybody out there ?

After three years, I found in a kiosk a weekly magazine dealing with different collections. I wrote the editor to ask whether bottle caps should be included in this magazine. The editor sent me a positive answer, and also published my request. Shortly thereafter someone rang the doorbell -- it was a collector.



The year was 1979 and I realized that I was not alone; even better, this man --Giorgio Gaiotto, who passed away 13 years ago-- showed me some beautiful pieces, and my love for bottle caps was solidified.

In the following years I met more and more collectors, in 1988 I joined CCSI, and eight years later I attended my first -- and at the moment, last (but not forever) -- CrownVention.

Thirty three years of collecting means a lot of walking, writing, requesting, trading, visiting, handling, and spending money, but sometimes you can be lucky and find incredible pieces for free. It happened to me ages ago during my last year of high school, when I found a collector with a small collection who was also at the end of his secondary studies. He sent me his collection, and I only had to pay for the postal charges. When I opened the parcel I found quite old pieces that I had never seen before and haven't seen since.



Some years after, I bought a small collection of 7,000 pieces plus trade stock, for which I paid a ridiculous price; the pieces I found were far from ridiculous and common! I was very happy and proud to acquire these crowns, more so because I improved the number of bottle caps to use for trading.

A certain collector asked to be the first to look at my new doubles. At that time he had -- and now still has -- a collection bigger than mine, so I was very excited when we had our big trade. I gave him about 3,000 different pieces, traded for a mere 932 bottle caps. As I think myself to be an honest man, I often hope that other people are like me or, at least, I believed so about that collector. But I was wrong, for when we met for another trade about a year-and-a-half later, I went to visit him with more or less 400 pieces, and when the bottle caps I was choosing from his doubles exceeded this number he seemed to be very upset. But perhaps he has an unreliable memory and forgot the last trade we had.

Pietro Clerici

