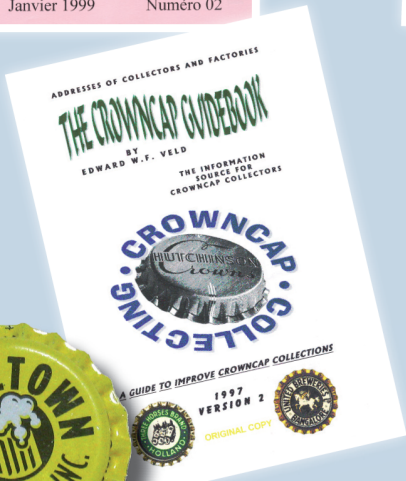
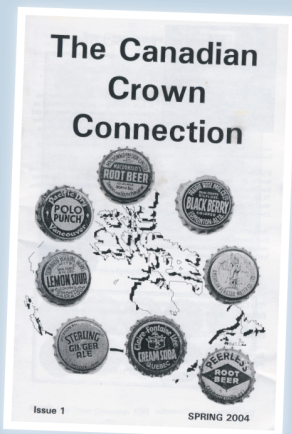
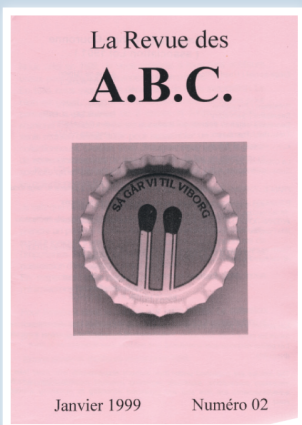


CrownCappers' Exchange



The Official Magazine Of The Crowncap Collectors Society International



- Les brasseries de France
- Mad about crowns
- Soda crowns from Australia
- Matching crowns with labels
- Spruce beer - Bière d'épinette
- Spanish micro breweries



CrownVention XXI

The biggest CrownFest in North America



crownvention.bottlecapclub.org

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.

President's message



In your hands you have the final great issue edited by Wietze Veld, who has brought the magazine to new heights in the past two years. This issue has 32 pages instead of the usual 28, because extra postage is required for the inclusion of the Membership Renewal Form and its return envelope; so the four extra magazine pages can go along for the ride at no additional cost. **Please be sure to return your renewal form**

with dues payment, as soon as possible, so you won't miss any of the fun of CCSI membership. (Or you can renew and pay with PayPal at <http://www.bottlecapclub.org>. Be sure to keep your address and e-mail up to date on your membership card in the roster on the site.)

Normally this mailing would also include a CrownVention registration form, but this year's deadline of February 5th was too early for the magazine schedule. Thus in mid-January we sent that form to all members by e-mail or post. The excitement is building for CrownVention XXI, and we hope you'll be there to be part of the biggest crown trading venue on the planet!

Another item that had been expected to be included in this issue's mailing, was to be a Presidential Election Ballot, as my two-year term ends at CrownVention this year. However, none of the nominations for President were accepted; thus there is no election. In order to try to keep CCSI functioning smoothly, I have agreed to continue as President until a special election should be called.

Fortunately I have the invaluable assistance of Phil Pfeiffer and Kenny Yohn as our CrownVention committee. They will see to every detail necessary to enhance your enjoyment of CrownVention. We are also very fortunate and happy to welcome Kevin Kirk as our new Treasurer and Membership Secretary. After CrownVention, Kevin will take over these important functions from Lance Wood, who has done a fantastic job of it for the past five years – thank you, Lance!

We are still looking for someone to step up as Secretary, and for another member (or even a non-member) to help with the web site. **Most of all, we need someone to put on the Editor's visor so that we can continue to bring you a quality *CrownCappers' Exchange* on a timely basis.** Please contact me if you can help with any of these important club activities.

I hope to greet many of you at CrownVention, and I wish all of you good luck in your collecting. As the saying goes, "Seek and ye shall find" – it definitely works with crowns!

Barry

Did you know...
...you can now print the member roster directly from the CCSI web site ?



Editor's note



I am the kind of person who likes to combine things. I do that with different groups of friends and I also do that with my hobbies. It all started with my first interests in computer stuff. I built my own website and later on I also made *The Crowncap Guidebook*. Rejoining CCSI in 2004 ignited this interest in combining my computer skills with our collecting hobby. This took me on a journey that would allow me to help reshape the CCSI website and the CCSI newsletter --which grew up to become a “magazine” -- and to add a little extra international flavor to CCSI.

At first I did not realize it would be a tough job when I volunteered for the position of editor. But then again, it is like any other job: you have to learn before you can do the job, and at first rely on the expertise of others. Not being a native English speaker, the proof reading team has been a great help with the production of each of the six issues.

CrownCappers' Exchange is for the members and by the members. The number of articles submitted for the October issue as well as for this issue was the basis for the great quality of the magazine. To maintain the high quality of this magazine the influx of articles is vital, so please continue to submit them. The CCSI magazine editor welcomes any article !

Six issues of *CrownCappers' Exchange* allowed me to be a little artistic, putting in my vision of how a crown collecting magazine should look and what information can make it interesting to read. Some may argue that with all the information sources on the internet a printed magazine may be a thing of the past, but I am convinced that this medium -- together with CrownVention -- is the reason to be a member of this club.

Of course any hobby club that runs well does so because of enthusiastic members who put in the time necessary to keep everything going. All I can say is: “Support the magazine in any way you can and be a part of the CCSI magazine, *CrownCappers' Exchange*”.

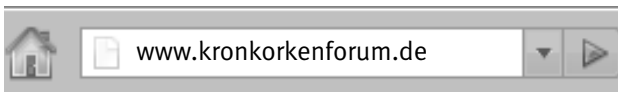
This February issue of the *CrownCappers' Exchange* marks the end of my journey with the CCSI. I will, however, continue my various other activities for our hobby with the Crowncaps.Info website and of course my own website.

If you are interested in what I have to say about the hobby of crown collecting, please visit “Wietze’s Crown Cap Blog” at: blog.crowncappage.nl

So long, and thanks for all the fish !

Wietze

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



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e-Mail editor@bottlecapclub.org

Laurie Moyer, Margaret Walker, Kenny Yohn,
David Timmer, Steven Savoca, John Vetter

*The CrownCappers' Exchange is published three times per year
Submit your articles for the June issue before April 30, 2010*

Old crowns from small regions

Lasse Pedersen (CCSI # 79)

This time, I would like to show you some old crowns from some small European countries or territories.



The first row as well as the first three positions in the second row show 1950's and 1960's crowns from Monaco, a small country situated at the Côte d'Azur in the south of France. Nowadays no breweries are left in Monaco. The other two crowns in the second row are from Andorra, a small country wedged between France and Spain. The first crown is from the 1930's, the second is from the 1960's.

From the country of San Marino, situated in the middle of Italy, row three shows five 1960's crowns. To my knowledge it is still possible to get a wine cap from this country, and at least one micro brewery is active today.



The first crown in row four is from a brewery --closed 20 years ago-- from a Spanish territory in the North of Africa called Ceuta. The remaining four in row four are 1950's and 1960's crowns from the British island of Guernsey which is situated in the British Channel.

The first two crowns in the last row are from the Isle of Wight, situated just south of England. The first is from 1931, the second from the 1960's. The last three crowns might not look that interesting, but when you look at the place of the bottler, they become interesting for many a collector. The first two crowns are from Gibraltar, one from the 1960's, the other from the 1970's, and the last one is from the Isle of Man, both are British territories.

Les brasseries de France

John Vetter (CCSI # 30)

Shown is an array of crowns the majority of which represent various breweries of France as of the 1960's. Most of them never had corks inserted, which fact may account for their pristine condition. They were acquired from a crown manufacturing source in France over 40 years ago.





CANADIAN CAP CHAT

Marg Walker (CCSI #41)



Sussex Beverages



Sussex Beverages were originally bottled in the town of Sussex, New Brunswick. Today, Sussex products are produced by Dr. Pepper Snapple Group (formerly Cadbury Beverages Canada Inc.), a subsidiary of Cadbury Schweppes, and is sold in the Maritime Provinces in Canada.

Ginger ales generally come in two varieties. Golden Ginger Ale is dark coloured and more strongly flavoured than Dry Ginger Ale. Dry Ginger Ale was developed during prohibition when ginger ale was used as a mixer for alcoholic beverages, which made the stronger flavour of the golden variety undesirable, so at that time Dry Ginger Ale became more popular.



Other soft drinks with the Sussex name have been Sussex Old English Ginger Beer, Sussex Pale Dry Ginger Ale, Sussex Cola, Cream Soda, Grape, Lime Rickey, Orange, Root Beer, Sparkling Water, and Strawberry. Many of these flavours depicted the Sussex Clown on the face.



The brand has had various owners including Sussex Mineral Spring Co., Sussex Ginger Ale Ltd., Maritime Beverages Ltd. Great Pacific Industries Inc., 7 Up Sussex Ltd., Crush International Ltd., and Cadbury Beverages Canada Inc. and now as mentioned earlier is produced by the Dr. Pepper Snapple Group.





New members

CCSI would like to welcome our newest members

<p>Alex Holmes (# 605) <i>Burlington, Ontario, Canada</i> Birth Year: 1948 <i>aholmes@spriggs.ca</i></p>	<p>Cliff Miller (# 606) <i>Jersey City, New Jersey, USA</i> Birth Year: 1967 <i>cbm@whatexit.org</i></p>	<p>Jack Bowers (# 607) <i>Marquette, Michigan, USA</i> Birth Year: 1947 <i>wmbowers@att.net</i></p>
<p>Andrew Fiorentini (# 608) <i>Cortland, New York, USA</i> Birth Year: 2005 <i>Started collecting: 2009</i> <i>Collects with his grandmother</i> <i>kmarsall@unityhouse.com</i></p>	<p>Mike Blake (# 609) <i>The Villages, Florida, USA</i> Birth Year: 1960 <i>ArmyCaleb97@yahoo.com</i> <i>All sodas but especially Coke,</i> <i>Crush, Cott, and Canada Dry.</i></p>	<p>Dave Lowry (# 610) <i>Hayward, California, USA</i> Birth Year: 1963 <i>bigdavel@msn.com</i></p>
<p>David Gregory (# 611) <i>Brunswick, Georgia, USA</i> Birth Year: 1975 <i>roadrunner1120@hotmail.com</i> <i>My daughter and I collect used</i> <i>and unused crowns worldwide.</i></p>	<p>Bob Kay (# 612) <i>Batavia, Illinois, USA</i> Birth Year: 1933 <i>beerlabel@comcast.net</i></p>	<p>Sytske de Waart (# 613) <i>Utrecht, The Netherlands</i> Birth Year: 1963 <i>post@waartweb.nl</i></p>
<p>José Luis Sánchez (# 614) <i>Barcelona, Spain</i> Birth Year: 1947 <i>Started collecting: 2006</i> <i>comillasmagana@gmail.com</i> <i>Cerveza, Refrescos, Aguas, etc,</i> <i>de todo el mundo, Utilizados</i> <i>sin utilizar y</i></p>	<p>Morris Everett, Jr. (# 615) <i>Kirtland, Ohio, USA</i> Birth Year: 1940 <i>morriseverettjr@yahoo.com</i></p>	<p>Dennis Carr (# 616) <i>Davenport, Florida, USA</i> Birth Year: 1944 <i>Started collecting: 2007</i> <i>dennis1187@msn.com</i> <i>All worldwide beer caps -</i> <i>special interest in</i> <i>microbreweries</i></p>
<p>Ralph Pompeo (# 617) <i>Braintree, Massachusetts, USA</i> Birth Year: 1947 <i>arpee@beld.net</i></p>	<p>Steve Utz (# 618) <i>Paducah, Kentucky, USA</i> Birth Year: 1960 <i>steve_utz@hotmail.com</i></p>	<p>Kevin Coombs (# 619) <i>St. Albert, Alberta, Canada</i> Birth Year: 1971 <i>kcoombs8476@gmail.com</i></p>

*“Buy-Sell-Trade” classified ads are a free benefit of CCSI membership.
 Send your classified ad to the editor for publication.*

ROOT BEER and CREAM SODA crowns wanted. ALL COUNTRIES, used or unused, cork-lined or plastic lined. I have beer and soda crowns for trade, mostly U.S. but considerable variety. Contact Phil Pfeiffer, member #273, sodacrowns@aol.com, 15400 N 56 TH St., Lincoln, NE 68514, Phone (402)785-7500 leave message. Please send me scans of your root beer and cream soda crowns and tell me what your interests are. I will reciprocate. Please be as broad as possible in the crowns you seek. Let's trade! Phil

Crowns found lying around at CV

Phil Pfeiffer (CCSI # 273)



“Mad” about crowns

Laurence (Laurie) Moyer (CCSI # 324)

The Webster dictionary has a number of definitions for the word “mad”. My favourites are: “completely unrestrained by reason and judgment” and “carried away by intense anger”. When it comes to the crown cap collecting hobby, the first would appear the most suitable. There have been a number of producers that have seen fit to include the word “mad” on their crowns, for various reasons.

The city of Blue Lake is located in the northwest corner of California, on the Mad River. It was here in 1989 that the Mad River Brewing Company was formed. They produce a variety of beers, including the ominously named Double Dread and Serious Madness. Fortunately, they do use printed caps for their bottled products.



When you hear the term “Mad Monk” many people immediately think of the infamous Rasputin. This Russian was either a holy man and seer or an opportunistic charlatan. Regardless of the truth, there were a variety of Mad Monk beers produced for the Mad Monk Beer Company of Cincinnati, Ohio. The company appears to have existed from around 1996 to 1999. During that time, the beers seem to have been produced at Oldenberg, Minnesota Brewing, Cold Spring, and Gluek. The crowns show an outline of a portly monk who may possibly have been mad.



Another “Mad” beer company is the Madcap Craftbrew & Bottleworks, which is situated in Hamilton, Ohio (also the home of one of our CCSI Board members). The company was founded in 1995 and has the Zebra brand of beers. It appears that their products were contract-brewed by the now closed Evansville Brewing Company. Since “madcap” traditionally means “marked by impulsiveness, recklessness, or foolishness”, I am not sure

what image this company hoped to convey.

“Mad”ness also appears to be alive in Germany, thanks to the efforts of at least one company. Maxxum GmbH distributes a variety of mixed beer drinks, including energy, cola, tequila, and lemon products. Unless “mad” has some special meaning in German, I can only speculate that the company wanted their product to appear North American.



So, whether you are unrestrained or intensely angry, you should have these “mad” crowns in your collection. Stop the insanity!

The road to 25,000

Rich Chinnock (CCSI # 279)

Well, after reaching the milestone of 25,000 different crown caps, I decided it was time to write something for the CrownCappers' Exchange. Achieving this made me reflect on some of the things that got me to this point.

My first exposure to the hobby came from a guy who washed dishes at a restaurant I worked for in 1996. This dishwasher would save all the caps from the bottle-opener catch from behind the bar each night. I asked, "What do you do with all those?" He replied that he was going to make a table top. It didn't occur to me until then, but there must have been about 100 different bottled beers in house at the time. He bet me that there would be at least 50 different kinds in the catch. So we dumped them out, and to my surprise he was right. Some of the logos on the caps caught my eye, and from that day forward I was obsessed with finding new crowns.

I didn't get a computer until a year later. This is when I discovered just how many others there were in this madness of crown cap collecting! My very first caps from the cyber world came from Wietze Veld of The Netherlands. He had some of what are now very common German used caps for sale. I purchased a few and he was kind enough to throw in a couple of "freebies". These caps were unused and I had never seen this before. Something else new for me!

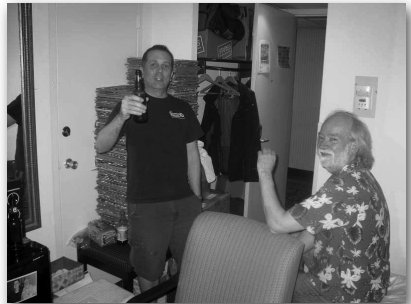
I had back surgery that same year, so I had a lot of spare time to write to different collectors to ask for trades. Of about 20 or so, Joe Roberts was the first to contact me. My first trade! We agreed on 100 different. About 75% of the caps I received were all new for my collection. It didn't take long for me to run out of trade caps. So, saving more caps from work produced a lot more trades.

My first CrownVention was in 1998, and I have been to every one ever since. I was so amazed at just how many crowns could be had in one place. Now that I have 25,000 caps I have had to resort to mostly trading by scans, since new caps are harder to find. But blind trades can always bring new surprises too! To date, I have traded with collectors in over 60 different countries. I have been fortunate to meet many nice people over the years and I am very grateful to all for helping me increase my collection!



Here is a picture of cap number 25,000. It is from a Brazilian alcoholic drink called Cachaca.

And, a toast from last year's CrownVention with my friend Laurie from Canada!



Promoting the hobby

Wietze Veld (CCSI # 243)

Since I started collecting crowns back in 1992, I have always felt the urge to do more for the hobby than just acquiring crowns for my collection. For one thing, there is a bit of an artist in me that likes to create things, and also I have always had a great interest in other cultures. Belgium, France, and Germany being the only foreign countries I had ever visited, it was always a great experience to receive a letter or a parcel from a far away country.

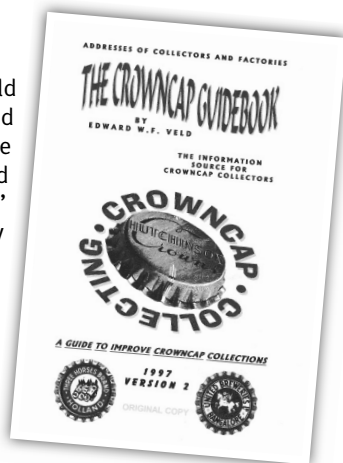
This must have been the reason why I have been involved in different endeavours to promote our hobby over the last 17 years. Now that we have the internet, contacting other collectors has become quite different and much faster. I remember my first contact. It was Victor van Gorkom, the biggest Dutch collector at that time. He called me and gave me two very valuable things (besides crowns): a couple of copies with information about crown factory signs by Klemens H. Linden, and a list with the names of various collectors from around the world assembled over the years by various collectors.



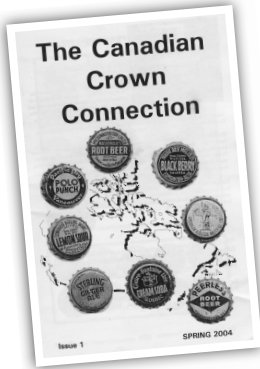
In all that time, there have been quite a few publications that have been put out with the intention to promote the hobby and unite collectors.

In the early nineties a collector by the name of Jiri Kozel from the Czech Republic sent around invitations to many collectors to submit their list of crowns counted by country. He would then compile the data and make a report showing the top collectors by country. This all for a mere DM 10. This same list would live on in later years maintained by other collectors, using MS Excel. Since 2007 this list has been made interactive on the internet at CrownCaps.Info.

In 1996 a collector by the name of Edward Veld from The Netherlands published a booklet called "*The CrownCap Guidebook*". It contained the stories of several different collectors from around the world. Besides the 'Collectors tell their story' section, it also contained an overview of factory signs, a list of collectors, a list of worldwide crown factory addresses, and some more info on crowns and crown companies. Edward is my first name, but everyone knows me by my second name, Wietze.



Around that same time I decided to apply for membership in CCSI. I think it was either Barry Oremland or Marg Walker who sent me the information about the club. Getting dollars in those days was difficult and expensive but in the end I got them and sent them in an envelope to John Vetter. A couple of weeks later I received my first copy of the *CrownCappers' Exchange*. This publication began in 1986 and is now in its 62nd issue. Although I only paid for one year, the newsletter kept coming for the next couple of years. I hope that meanwhile I have made up for those years of unpaid membership.

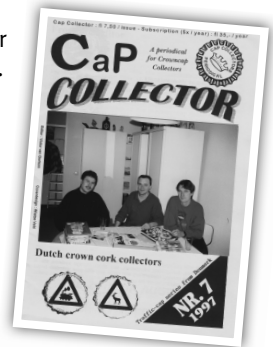


Victor van Gorkom, the first crown collector with whom I had traded, got the idea to publish a magazine. If I remember correctly, this was also 1996. The magazine was to be named *Cap Collector*. The magazine was quite successful, had some interesting articles and displays, looked quite nice as well and had a growing list of members. It lasted through 2002, with 32 issues. Victor also published a booklet with factory signs in 2002; in the online forums it is sometimes still used as a reference.

In 1998 I even made an effort in making software to register one's collection. Because I was just a starting software engineer, I lacked the knowledge and expertise to make it without bugs, and I quit working on this software program named *CrownBase*.

In 1998 French collectors founded a club called *ABC (Amis du Bouchon Couronne)*. I received an issue of their newsletter. It was in French and a bit of English, so I was able to understand what the articles were about. It was almost the French version of *Cap Collector*.

At the end of the nineties, the internet became more popular and more and more collectors became active on the internet. As we all know now, the internet has had a great impact on our hobby. The internet made the world a lot smaller and everything more accessible. The first crown websites popped up, and the collectors lists were put online, amongst which *Davide's Collector Database*. It went from a static list to a dynamic searchable list and was -- together with the *Crown Stats* list (the list initiated by Jiri Koziel) -- the basis for the *Crowncaps.Info* website, a website with over 500 members.



In 2003 Marg Walker started a newsletter called "*The Canadian Crown Connection*", a newsletter intended to unite the Canadian crown collectors and focus on Canadian crowns, according to the introduction in issue 1. But it did also show info and crown displays of worldwide crowns. It went through 2005 with 4 issues altogether.

Nowadays our hobby is online and being online has almost become a must for actively taking part in the community of crown collectors.

Odd sodas & selected waters



Todd Selbert (CCSI # 220)



Pietrology - A collectors' story

Pietro Clerici (CCSI # 80)

The following is Part Three of 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 were published in the October 2009 issue.

- Editor

Part Three: Trade, buy, and sell

The last chapter of my unforgettable history - unless someone will ask for more - could deal with the experience every collector has in order to improve their collection.

My very first meeting where there was also buying and selling and not only trading was CrownVention in 1996. I arrived with 9 kilos of crowns to trade. After a while someone wanted to buy five -- in my opinion very common -- water crowns from me, and asked for a price. What was I to do? I tried to trade for them but he did not have anything to offer, so I tried to give them for free; but he insisted to pay, so I asked two dollars. In the end I accepted five dollars because he found my first offer to be too generous and the crowns were worth it.

When it comes to crowns I am not much of a business man. I prefer and strongly believe in trading. However, after my 3,000 for 932 trade, I now exchange on a one to one basis as much as possible, though I try to keep friendship and mutual respect in mind. It does not really matter if the trade is not exactly one for one but the 3,000 for 932 trade still remains such an unequal trade.

About ten years ago I attended a meeting in France. There I met a very special person. He chose some crowns from my trade stock, and then he offered me to choose crowns from his own collection as a token of our friendship and in order to remember this meeting. I was very impressed and my collection is still thankful.



Nowadays, in the eBay era, I find that some of the sellers are still looking for friendship and thus do not want to sell crowns just to earn money. These two crowns I bought, but I did not pay that much although you would not expect it.

Every crown collector knows it is just impossible to have every different crown produced since 1892 in their collection. I just collect for fun; I am not that much interested in the financial value of my collection (although it is probably worth thousands of dollars, but please do not tell my wife) and I am not so involved in the charts that are being kept among the collectors. I always like to improve my collection, and so my history will continue !

Joining the ‘Crazies’

Cherryl Kaiser/Taylor Ann Kaiser (CCSI #399)

Each year as we start planning to take off to CrownVention, the topic of “What are you doing this weekend?” always comes up with clients and acquaintances. Hmm, how to answer that... I enjoy the responses I get every time: “You are going where?” “You collect what?” (their head is spinning for a second...) “Why?” is the inevitable question. I laugh because it really is an amusing thing to explain.

About 7 years ago our daughter Taylor had to start a hobby for her Girl Scout badge. We have always spent several weekends in summer at various racetracks working the events (no, not NASCAR). Well, face it -- crowns on the ground are pretty plentiful there, and since Bill and I are ‘beer snobs’ it was perfect.

Just for some background, I surfed the internet looking to find some information about this. There seems to be a club for everything; there’s gotta be something out there for THIS! The CCSI came up first. I surfed the site, totally amazed that there really was a group of crazies (I say that lovingly of course) out there collecting these things! OK, next step: Get some info. As it was easy to do on the internet, I joined the club for her. She continued to collect any bent, dirty crown she found and we started putting aside crowns from what we drank.

In April Taylor and I decided to take the two-hour drive down to CrownVention. We arrived and went to the trade floor where we were greeted at the registration table. We had no idea what we were in for! Everyone was so welcoming and friendly, almost like they were expecting us!

As we made our way around the trade show, Taylor proudly showed off her little notebook with photo-negative pages of crowns in it, and she was encouraged to enter the “guess how many caps in the bottle” contest. She won (I still think it was fixed!). Then it got really interesting. Here I am with my 10-year-old daughter and this man I’ve never met tells me she has to go back to his room before we leave. I wasn’t sure how to respond to that but he quickly explained the room to room trading. We bought a few things, she was treated generously by some vendors who found out she was new, and I tried my best to figure out what it was all about. From the trade floor off to Rich Pav’s room we went, where she was given a plastic bag and had several trays dumped into it. Then off to Jeff Meyers’ room, where we were quickly introduced to the renowned “bin o’death”.

Taylor gained a huge appreciation of the hobby. Steve Savoca and others kindly continued to answer my questions about the hobby, and we heard some great stories about how different people started in the hobby. It was an amazing day and the start of a fun hobby for Taylor and an annual trip for the Kaiser Family! We had nothing to trade for, but we were just told “come back next year with traders” --they must have known we were keepers! We spent days sorting 2500+ crowns! Ever since then, we do everything possible to get to CrownVention, and I don’t think we’ve missed any since. It is amazing that a great group of people come together from all over the world with crowns -- and wanting to have fun -- in common.

continued on page 21

Spanish micro breweries

Jordi Bellaubi (CCSI # 572)

In the last ten years the number of micro breweries in many countries has increased quite a lot and, luckily enough, after some years where most of them used plain generic caps, now the number of micros using personalized caps is increasing. This is also the case for the Spanish micro breweries.



The first one to use generic caps was *Bertoko Gar*, from the Basque country, which was active from 1999 to 2002. The name of the brewery means “from here” in Basque language, and during this period they produced two different caps, in cream and gold colour.

Llupols i Llevats, from Hospitalet (Barcelona) has four different caps that show the name of their beer (Glops, “drink” in English) with different colour backgrounds. The company started to brew in 2005 and has at least 8 different kinds of beers, being the micro brewery with the widest variety of beers.



Cerveses la Gardenia, from Alcover (Tarragona) evolved from having plain red and green caps with the word “Rosita” stamped on them next to the expiration date, to their personalized caps for their Rosita brand in 2008. Originally this beer was brewed by Cap d’Ona brewery in southern France and now is probably the micro brewery with the best distribution in Spain.

Cerveses de Dues hails from Sant Esteve d’en Bas (Olot, Girona) and is producing beer catering to gastronomic places more than for the usual supermarkets. Originally they used a totally black cap with a red “E” in the center of it, but due to some defects in the manufacturing of the caps the black painting of the skirts had some adherence problems.

Thus they had to re-manufacture them, and decided to use the same cap (it has some tone difference in red colour) but now with silver skirt. They use the big kind of caps, like the old Italian wine caps.



Cervezas Fernandez Pons, from Casas del Rey (Valencia), is producing the Altura de Vuelo beer, a bitter beer in the vein of some English ales. They have two different size caps (for standard bottles and a big one for 75 cl bottles) with the same designs. There is a second design of the cap, in pale grey/white color instead of dark grey/black color that was the originally produced by the caps factory but that was rejected by the brewery.



Companyia Cervesera del Montseny, CCM, from Seva, Barcelona, has recently issued three different caps to be used for their different kind of beers, in gold, silver, and black colors. Curiously enough they have 4 different kinds of beers (plus a fifth one produced at Christmas time in champagne type bottles). In my opinion, this is probably the best micro brewery and after Rosita is probably the best distributed one.



La Cervesera Artesana is a brew pub from Barcelona where they brew all the beers served. Some years ago they issued a champagne type cap for some nice porcelain bottles used to sell beer to people who wanted to bring home the beer they were drinking in the pub (I am not sure if the bottle size was either 75 cl or one liter).

In recent years, a new brand called *Mased del Lleo* has also appeared on the market but I would not consider them as a micro brewery. It is basically a distribution company that orders the beer from Belgium and then tries to sell it here (only available via mail order) as handcrafted beer, so they don't brew anything (and their beers are not quite good anyhow). Anyway, they have issued 5 different caps so far: Two for their blond beer, two for their undrinkable dark beer and one for a recent Gueuze type beer.

"Joining the 'Crazies'" continued from page 19

After returning home from our first CrownVention, word got out and baggies of crowns started to be saved by our beer-loving friends and the two traveling grandmothers. I started to become THAT mother -- the one at girls' night out or out to dinner as a family, with a baggy in my purse asking the bartender to dump the capcatcher.

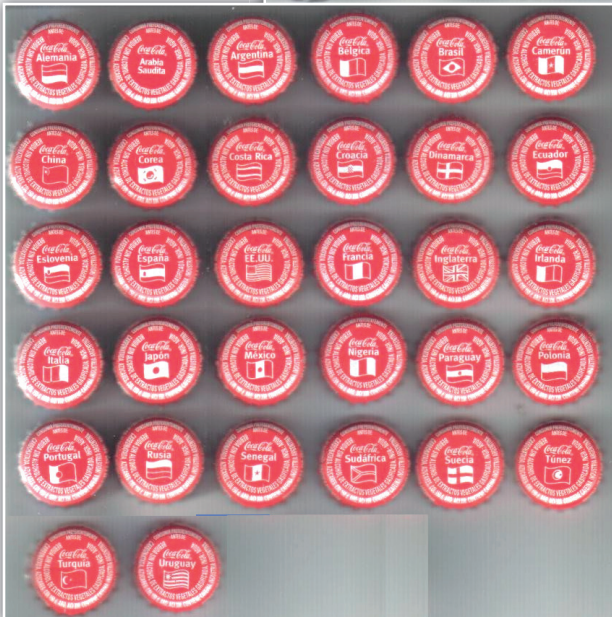
So now, about 7 years later, Taylor has trays of her own crowns to trade, and she loves beer crowns. I've kind of started to casually collect Coke crowns and beer crowns with the Pennsylvania keystone tax stamp on it.

So when the client or acquaintance looks at me all confused and bewildered about why anyone would collect something like bottle caps, I just tell them, "We are one of those crazies who love to collect new or used bottle caps, get together with friends from all over the world, meet new people, talk about and drink some beer, trade bottle caps and have fun - for a whole weekend". They seem to go from being confused to envious!

2002 Japan & Korea
 Carlsberg Canada



1974 Germany
 Dinkelacker Germany



2002 Japan & Korea
 Coca-Cola Argentina

FIFA World Cup crowns

Oscar Amestoy (CCSI #75)

For American sports fans, "soccer" has never been a popular sport. Sports like baseball, American football, and basketball are more popular. Soccer was mostly played by children, and even girls have been playing it more frequently than boys.

In the early eighties an attempt was made to make soccer more popular in the U.S. by attracting the biggest players of "old glory" and setting up a league. That attempt unfortunately failed, but in the mid-nineties there was another attempt which included the World Cup of 1994, and today U.S. sports fans enjoy a league which is growing more popular.

However, the situation is radically different in nearly all other countries around the world, where this sport has been a popular pastime for many years, enjoyed by billions and with enormous enthusiasm. For all those countries the sport is referred to as "football".

The most important football tournament is without a doubt the FIFA World Cup (WC). It has been played since 1930, every four years, in the middle of the four year period between two Olympiads. The idea was to fill the void between Olympiads with another important international sporting event.

The first championships were quite irregular as to the number of competitors and whether they were held at all. The world was not as small as it is now, and of course World War II also had an enormous impact. In 1954 everything was more regulated and it was decided that 16 national teams would compete. In 1982 the number of competing teams was raised to 24 and in 1998 to 32.

The FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association / International Federation of Association Football) can be considered the second largest organization after the UN, in terms of the number of countries affiliated. The name "soccer" actually came from Association Football. Abbreviated to Assoc. Football it later became known as "soccer".

Crown caps have reflected the interest that this unique sport event has created among people since the very beginning. Many sets in different countries have been printed by different breweries and bottlers. Displayed on the opposite page are sets that show the flags of the finalist countries in each edition. The sets I have in my collection are sets that reflect the 1974, 1982, 1994, 2002, and 2006 FIFA World Cups. I do not know whether there are other sets without flags for other editions, but I assume there are.

This year, 2010, is the year that South Africa will host the 19th FIFA World Cup -- The first World Cup to be held in Africa.

I am almost sure new sets will be issued for the 2010 World Cup.



Oscar Amestoy

Table wine crowns from Italy

Sandro Fantini (CCSI # 176)

By far the most famous Italian beverage, wine is exported all over the world in the classic 750cc bottle with cork. Maybe not all of you know that cheaper and lower quality wines -- the ones we call “table wines” which people drink each day at lunch and dinner are (but unfortunately I should say “were”) -- bottled in larger bottles with crown caps.



This is a selection from all my wine crowns from the last 40 years, all bearing a grape design. Nowadays almost all such bottles are sealed with screw caps, and the few that still have crowns are of very poor design.

The story of “The Girl In The Moon”

David Timmer (CCSI # 364)

Although stories abound, the precise origin of the Miller Girl is unknown. Some claimed the story was inspired by one of Frederick Miller’s granddaughters. Others say she resembled a Mexican figurine that was in the Miller offices. It’s more likely she was modeled after an equestrienne, a colorfully costumed circus performer who rode horses. A pre-prohibition High Life billboard depicted such a girl, whip in one hand and the reins of a charging team in the other, over the legend “Always In The Lead”.



The Miller Girl was most often pictured in profile, standing on a wooden case raising a glass of High Life beer. The “Girl In The Moon”, copyrighted in 1907, was a vision by A.C. Paul, Miller’s advertising manager. The symbol had roots in Roman mythology, having a likeness of the hunter Diana, who used a crescent moon for her bow and moonbeams for arrows. Part goddess, part entertainer, and part fantasy figure, the “Girl In The Moon” had a quality shared by every effective corporate symbol: mystery. Her appearance has evolved over time, but the girl’s appeal has lasted more than a century, becoming one of the most enduring symbols in American brewing history.

(source: Miller Time, A History of Miller Brewing Company 1855-2005)



Soda crowns from Australia

John Breheny (CCSI # 516)

Australian Soda Crownies don't seem to be available for collection very often, as lately screw-capped soft drinks are much more common "down under". The soda crowns in my collection of all Australian crowns represent 15% (60 out of 425), and have been traded or purchased as used in the 1960-1985 era. Displayed are some of my non-beer soda crowns from Australia.



Spruce beer - bière d'épinette

Marg Walker (CCSI # 41)

Spruce beer is a beverage flavoured with the buds, needles or essence of spruce trees. The fresh shoots of many spruce trees are a natural source of vitamin C. Generally, spruce beer is a soft drink, although Captain Cook made an alcoholic sugar-based beer during his sea voyages, in order to prevent scurvy in his crew.



Also when the early French Canadian settlers had to winter over in Quebec with only salted or brined food, they started to develop scurvy and other diseases which were the result of vitamin C deficiency.

The French listened to the locals, that is, the Huron, Montagnais, and Iroquois native Indians, who showed them that by boiling the bark of conifers they could produce a broth which had amazing curative qualities. In those days the French added yeast to the mix, which produced the first alcoholic beverages in North America.



Alcoholic spruce beer was also common in the colonial United States and eastern Canada. It was more popular in Quebec and is called “bière d'épinette”. Over time, spruce beer in Quebec lost its alcohol additive, thanks to the Catholic Church, and has been a carbonated beverage for almost a century.

Matching crowns to labels

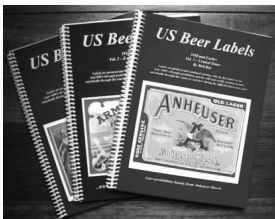
Bob Kay (CCSI # 612)

I get many requests to identify the origin of mystery crowns. This is because I have published books picturing U.S. beer labels from 1950 and earlier. It turns out the labels pictured are a great way to identify the distributor for the crown, and scoring a match is both rewarding and fun. After all, that's what this hobby is about. A recent find of circa 1934-35 crowns listed on eBay stirred up a lot of interest and questions. A few of the crowns and matching labels from this find are shown here. Most were not mysteries, but it still helps to see a companion label because they contain mandatory information for the issuing source — either brewer, bottler or distributor — and geographical point of origin.



Of course, the matching game will always be a work in progress, so please advise any matching that looks to be wrong.

Information on the books is available at <http://www.bobkaybeerlabels.com> or email Bob at beerlabel@comcast.net



Bob Kay

My database just adds a new record when a new entry is added. This means that the table storing the crown entries when unordered, is by default ordered the way records have been added. So why not order my physical collection in that way? Now when I need to add a new crown, I do not have to shift loads of crowns but I just have to add the crown at the end in the last sheet.

In this system it is also easy to find the exact position.

For every crown I store, the overall page and the number of the binder are automatically calculated when I add a new crown. On the page it shows the exact position of the crown in my collection.

The Stroh Brewery Co. Alabama

Crowncap ID: 3209
 Purpose: Bottle closure
 Liner: Plastic
 Country: United States
 Product: Beer product
 Brewer/bottler: Stroh Brewery Company
 Sets/series:
 Overall page: 76
 Binder: 10
 Sheet position:
 Picture crown:

CCSI Crowncap info - Sheet position

For Trade	No	Binder	10
Condition	No	Page	4
Collection	Yes	1	2
Status	Alt	7	8
Extra info		13	14
		19	20
		25	26
		31	32
		37	38
		43	44
		49	50
		55	56
		61	62
		67	68
		73	74
		79	80
		85	86
		91	92
		97	98
		103	104
		109	110
		115	116
		121	122
		127	128
		133	134
		139	140
		145	146
		151	152
		157	158
		163	164
		169	170
		175	176
		181	182
		187	188
		193	194
		199	200
		205	206
		211	212
		217	218
		223	224
		229	230
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		253	254
		259	260
		265	266
		271	272
		277	278
		283	284
		289	290
		295	296
		301	302
		307	308
		313	314
		319	320
		325	326
		331	332
		337	338
		343	344
		349	350
		355	356
		361	362
		367	368
		373	374
		379	380
		385	386
		391	392
		397	398
		403	404
		409	410
		415	416
		421	422

The exact location of a crown

But what if I would like to see all 'Stroh' crowns together? Well, that is where I use my website. I just enter 'Stroh' in the search page and I will see all 'Stroh' crowns in my collection together. This is actually the same system used by the CCSI Crowncap Database.



All 'Stroh' crowns shown together

Because my website is on the internet, everyone can search my database and see what crowns I have in my collection.

Now that my collection is on-line I can access it wherever I am. This comes in very handy when I am at CrownVention or any other trade meeting.

