

## ***Malt Maniacs E-pistle #2011-08*** ***By Peter Silver, USA***

This article is brought to you by 'Malt Maniacs'; an international collective of more than two dozen fiercely independent malt whisky aficionados. Since 1997 we have been enjoying and discussing the pleasures of single malt whisky with like-minded whisky lovers from all over the world. In 2010 our community had members from 16 countries; The United Kingdom, Sweden, Germany, Holland, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Italy, Greece, The U.S.A., Canada, India, Japan, Taiwan, Australia & South Africa. More information on: [www.maltmaniacs.org](http://www.maltmaniacs.org).



# **WHISKY SUPERHERO**

About six months ago I received an email about a company offering a comic page drawn with my image, taken from photos that I send to them. Since I had been reading comics for over 47 years, it didn't take me too long to answer in the affirmative. They offered three different stock scenarios: slice of life scene (reality based), a film noir detective or a superhero. Within the superhero category you have the choices of "feats of superhuman strength" or "opposites attract" (eg hero meets villain or villainess) or "call to adventure" (how the hero got his or her powers). I found myself inexorably drawn to the origin of powers concept.

In the 1950's there were many monster movies made with the creature originating from some radioactive accident, done to pander to our fear of radiation. Godzilla, Them (giant ants), Amazing Colossal Man, Attack of the Giant Leeches and the Beast from 20,000 Fathoms, just to name a few. In comic books of the 1960's and 1970's, superhero's acquired their powers in various unusual ways, not just by radiation anymore. See if you can match up the heros with their origins:

- |                                     |                    |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Doused by chemicals in a lab     | a. Captain America |
| 2. Wearing some jewelry             | b. Hulk            |
| 3. Just good old working out        | c. Ironman         |
| 4. Injected with a special serum    | d. Flash           |
| 5. Bitten by a radioactive arachnid | e. Green Lantern   |
| 6. Being a God                      | f. Batman          |
| 7. Exposed to our yellow sun        | g. Superman        |
| 8. Wearing a special suit           | h. Thor            |
| 9. 9. Exposed to gamma radiation    | i. Spiderman       |

Answers will be provided at the end of this piece.

So , how would I get my powers? Maybe by drinking whisky made from radioactive grain or with FWP? Maybe discover some old dusty bottle that had special magic inside. Another scenario would be to meet a whisky guru who would grant me mysterious powers. Did I really think Jim Murray would have time in his schedule to do this? Another possible origin would be to fall into a peat bog, nearly die and emerge as Peat Silver! Nah, too obvious...

Next I started to think what super powers would I want - super speed, invisibility, reading minds, flying, super strength, invulnerability. All these sounded great and the stuff of great fantasies, but none were really relevant to who I was now. That led me to think about being a whisky superhero. What if I could have the power to change the laws that require US bottles to be 750 ml, so that more UK bottles could come to my country?

How about being able to have the power to mature whisky faster? Or having a photographic taste memory of storing every whisky ever tasted in my head? All these ideas were good concepts, but maybe not the easiest to illustrate in a one page, four panel drawing.

And now, the question that plagues every superhero - what to wear? Cape or no cape? Did I want itchy material riding up on me or shiny spandex? I pondered about a long leather coat that would somehow not make me sweat. Would I put a big "W" on my chest for whisky or a picture of a bottle? This was getting sillier by the minute, yet had to be answered in order for the artist to begin drawing. Since I didn't want my brain to overheat, I decided to go with no costume, just regular clothing.

The ideas began to flow and over the course of a month, I envisioned what I wanted to see on the page. I wrote the script and drew simple panels, illustrating what I hoped the artist would be able to create. There was a considerable amount of back and forth between the company and myself, because this had turned into much more of a custom piece than a stock scenario. I think all the effort was worthwhile, let me know what you think.









The correct match ups are: 1 d, 2 e, 3 f, 4 a, 5 i, 6 h, 7 g, 8 c, 9 b  
If you wish to have your own comic, the company I worked with is [www.copiousproductions.com](http://www.copiousproductions.com)



A whisky enthusiast for over twenty years, Peter is honored to be a member of both the Malt Maniacs and PLOWED. He works as a freelance writer for Malt Advocate Magazine, Whisky and Spirits Life Magazine and Whisky Magazine. He also is passionate about Dentistry and Jazz, you can see more at [www.JazzDentist.com](http://www.JazzDentist.com). None of this would be possible however, without his beautiful wife, Jessica.