

MINIIZ

THE NEWSLETTER OF
PORT NICHOLSON MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB.



EDITORIAL

This edition is a little late in appearing mainly because of the resignation of the editor. For a number of reasons Val decided that 5 magazines was enough. The magazine is the life blood of a club like ours, especially as now well over half our membership lives outside Wellington. Therefore the show must go on!

This edition is being edited, typed, photocopied, distributed and largely written by the publicity officer and secretary. Our thanks go to Erica Mulder for contributing the second part of her 'Around the World in 80 Bottlestores' saga.

ONE CONTRIBUTOR OTHER THAN THE EDITORS IS NOT ENOUGH!!

It is YOUR magazine so lets have some articles. How did you start collecting? Have you an anecdote about acquiring a particular bottle? Have you been on a bottle hunting expedition?

We certainly don't exclude the overseas members either from the above comments - how about a contribution from you lot!

ELECTIONS

As has been mentioned we now have no editor, we also have only a stand-in president following Marge's resignation and the treasurer, after several years stalwart service, also no longer wishes to continue. All of which is good news for those of you who are itching to have a go!

The elections will be held on Sunday the 29th January (note the 4th Sunday of January as the 3rd. is a public holiday in Wellington) at 2.00 pm. Venue is Chris Matthews' place, 4a Kinloch Place, Papakowhai. (Off Tweed Road).

Nominations and proxy votes will be accepted right up until the elections themselves. Positions to be filled are:

President; Vice-President; Secretary; Treasurer; Publicity & Public Relations Officer; and Magazine Editor.

Remember no committee, goodbye P.N.M.B.C!

MEMBERSHIP

Only those who are paid up members will be eligible to vote. Membership fees have not been collected for the last two or three months so quite a few members (including the writer) no longer are members (if you see what I mean). Have a look at your membership card NOW. If the expiry is January 84 or previous PLEASE renew without being asked. The less we have to send chase-up letters the less expense we incur and so the more the membership fee is kept down.

Fees Are:-

- N.Z. Members - N.Z.\$10 per person or N.Z.\$15 for a family membership.
- Overseas Members - US.\$9 or Aust.\$9 or £7 or equivalent (notes may be sent if easier for you)

DUNBAR

Thought you would like to see the long awaited miniature of Dunbar Whisky. Contrary to rumours it is not named after the well known Wellington Auctioneer.

This whisky is a blend of Scottish Malt and N.Z. Grain Whisky and is a fine addition to the other two N.Z. Whiskies, 45 South and Wilsons. The N.Z. content was distilled by Wilsons of Dunedin and it was blended and bottled by Seagram (New Zealand) Limited in Auckland who now own Wilsons.

The label is black with a gold border and gold writing with the exception of the words "Dunbar" and 'Blended Whisky' which are white.

It is somewhat disappointing to see the miniature issued in the straight bottle as the 750ml bottles are squat in shape. We understand that squat mini bottles had been imported from Canada, where Seagrams bottle 'VO' Canadian Whisky in them, so are at a loss to explain why they have not been used.



COVER

Those of you who have read the previous editions will not be surprised to see the top bottle on our front cover. We must thank Quill Humphreys of Christchurch who are the N.Z. agents for Jim Beam for organising this for us. They also organised the two below, one for the Northern Alcophialist Club which is the other N.Z. Club, based in Auckland and one for yours truly. All these bottles are available from the Club (P.O. Box 384, Wellington) at N.Z.\$2 each for members or N.Z.\$2.50 for non-members. Postage will be extra at cost. PLEASE, please buy some - we have quite a number to sell. The club benefits to the tune of 40¢ (or 90¢) per bottle so keeping the membership fee down.

Whilst on the subject of Jim Beam personalised bottles you might like to see this one from my own collection.

When I went to see Tom Sexton the Sales Manager of Quill Humphreys to order the Club bottles they had just moved offices. Tom found the bottle shown when packing and saved it for me.

It was bottled for the U.S. Antarctic Research Programme Silver Jubilee 1955 - 1980 by The International Bottling Company Limited who are a Quill Humphreys subsidiary.

For those of you who don't know, Christchurch is the home base of the U.S. as well as the N.Z. Antarctic Research programme as it has the closest international airport to the ice.

Most of the personalised Jim Beam bottles produced for the N.Z. market have been produced in the U.S. (as have the 3 on the cover), this is one of the exceptions. Quill Humphreys used up their stock of labels on the 4th N.Z. Convention bottle and do not intend getting any more as apparently it is far cheaper to have the bottling done in the States.

David Smith.



argentine whiskies

by alfredo spinelli



This time we will dedicate this section to Argentine whiskies that you will find presently on the market. Some are new brands; others are well known brands, but with some changes on their labels or caps. In the latter case, we can only say that they are currently in production.

This first bottle is Baker and Baxter which is produced by the Peter's Distillery and has already appeared in these pages. This brand appeared on the market in 1976.

The second bottle is the Robert Brown. This miniature was first produced in 1971 and has since seen some changes in its caps and in the design of the label. This brand (different label) is also sold in Mexico.

Next is another bottle from the Peters Company. This is the Pioneer which appeared on the market in 1976. There was a

miniature at the beginning of this century with this brand name, but with a completely different bottle.

The fourth bottle is Maclin. Production here began in 1975 and in 1977 a round bottle was added to this well known flat design.

Next is the McLennan bottle. In 1976, the sale of this miniature began with the label, cap, and container as they appear in this photo. Previously though, between the years 1958-75, it was sold by another company having a slightly different label and cap.

Finally, there is Royal Command. This appeared on the market in 1975 and is still sold at the present time. --A.S.--

ARGENTINA



After an unforgettable week in Toronto staying with friends we boarded a British Airways B747 for London and as luck would have it, we were allocated seats upstairs right behind the cockpit. We were very well looked after and had a most enjoyable flight. After our arrival at Heathrow we made our way by bus, taxi and train to Doncaster. Again staying with friends we had a great time. Made a few lovely tours through Yorkshire and on one of them called in at Peter Dominic Liquor Store in York. Here we bought 15 straight glass bottles we didn't have and even got them to dismantle a display in the window because of one we just had to have.

A visit to a little "off-licence" corner shop in Doncaster proved very fruitful as we found quite a lot of McLech ceramics, e.g. Scotty, Mack the Knife, gold crown, glass horses head, 8 English country scenes on flat ceramic bottles, a series of 6 pinbottle shape bottles with vintage cars and 3 with fruit, also matchbox whiskys and micromini champagnes and wines.

Before we left for London we packed all our new purchases and sent them on their way.

In London, for only two days, we walked the shops as we had seen the sights on previous visits. Bottleshops seem to be few and far between when you are looking for them and we didn't do as well as we anticipated. The "German Food Centre" 44 Knightsbridge had a small but nice selection of miniatures and we bought a boxed set of 8 liqueurs from Schuly and Honniger. We went to Harrods, but found not one single miniature in their bottle department. The least we expected was the set they put out themselves, but even those were sold out apparently, very disappointing. In another store we spotted a large basket full with minis. We thought we were in business, but at a closer look all but a few were damaged. After a long search we managed to find 2 Scotch Whisky ceramics, "St. Pauls" and "Liquid Assets", the shape of a gold bar. On our last night in London we went to Eastleigh to meet David Maund. We spent a most memorable and enjoyable evening with David and his wife Lynne. We tried to view as many bottles in his magnificent (22,000!) collection as time would allow. They were displayed right through the house and we would have loved to stay longer but had to catch the 9.30pm train back to London. Made it with half a second to spare.

Next morning we were picked up from our hotel at 6.00 am to start the 15 day tour of Europe. Even at that hour it was already quite warm. The heatwave was upon us and was to last till long after we were back in New Zealand. A beautiful summer indeed, although at times a bit too warm. Our expectations of this tour were very high, miniature wise we were not disappointed but holiday wise bad news. Once our group had assembled at the Tour Company's Office we boarded a coach for Dover, then travelled by ferry across the Channel. Our coach for the next couple of weeks was waiting at Boulogne to take us to Paris. The group consisted of 49 travellers. Luckily a very nice bunch of people except for the usual one or two. Mainly Americans, Australians and New Zealanders. We stayed in Paris for two nights. We would have liked to go out looking for some French bottles, but as it was Sunday and the shops closed we decided to join the group for the sightseeing. Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, Sacre Coeur, Montmatre, The Tuileries Gardens,

Chateau of Versailles. You name it, we've seen it. This was just a taste of what was to come. Too much in too little time. Dinner in a small restaurant and afterwards a few hours at the Moulin Rouge watching the show while sipping champagne. Very enjoyable. Next day early departure for Lucerne. Travelling mainly along the motorways we enjoyed the scenery but were disappointed to be bypassing the picturesque towns and villages. Regular stops were made at roadside restaurants for snacks, drinks, etc. After a few hours in Lucerne sightseeing and shopping, even finding a few minis, e.g. Scotch Whisky Old Barrel No. 12 and Rhum Colonial, we travelled on to our hotel in the hills. A lovely place overlooking a valley with the cows ringing their bells down in the meadows. The following day another early rise to reach Florence by midday, in time to see the Statue of David by Micheal Angelo, before the Academy of Fine Arts closed. In the afternoon we went on a tour of Florence and when we had an hour to ourselves I tried to contact Guiliano Pratolini. My phonecall was answered by a woman who obviously didn't understand a word I was saying. We very much wanted to meet Guiliano and see his collection, so tried again but to no avail. Early next morning we were on our way to Rome. To our surprise we found that most of the roadside restaurants stocked miniatures in their shopping corners. By this time our fellow travellers were well aware of our hobby and at times told us what was available even before we had a chance to have a look. This we found quite amusing, especially when a few started to buy minis for themselves. On arrival in Rome a local guide showed us around the Vatican, the Colosseum and other places of interest. That night we all went to Tivoli, a small town a few miles outside Rome. We had dinner at the Restaurant Monte Ripali. It turned out to be one of the nicest evenings of the tour. Just before leaving we discovered that the restaurant put out their own miniature. A rather plain labeled liqueur but all the same a welcome addition to our collection.

The following day just about everyone went their own way. It's rather tiring to travel with a "fast" tour like this one, especially when the group leader keeps on saying, "we haven't got much time here, we must be back at such and such an hour to be on time there and there". A lot of the older people started to slow down and didn't participate in optional sightseeing trips anymore. It was lovely to go at your own pace for a change. We went to see Fabio Vicinansa, of which we will tell you more in the next edition.

To be continued

Erica Mulder.

THE MNIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

We highly recommend this, the only publication of it's type, to all our members. For those of you who wish to subscribe the address of the Miniature Bottle Collector Magazine is:

Brisco Publications, P.O. Box 2161, Palos Verdes Peninsula, California 90274, USA
Annual Subscription (6 issues) is US\$20.00. Arrangements have been made to pay for subscriptions in NZ at no extra cost. Please write to the club at P.O.Box 384, Wellington if you wish to subscribe this way.

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