

MiniZ

THE NEWSLETTER OF PORT NICHOLSON MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



EDITORIAL

I don't believe in editorials for the sake of editorials, so you will only get one when I really do have something to say - apart from the usual moan about members not sending me articles or snippets.

I must apologise for the lateness of this newsletter. I had to go to Australia and Fiji (working honest) at short notice. I am liable to have this happen on a regular irregular basis (if you see what I mean) from now on. I would ask you to bear with me under the circumstances, the newsletter will be produced - if somewhat erratically.

Incidentally, Fiji is a dead loss for minis. Australia is not as good as it was a couple of years ago, but I did manage to pick 6 or 7 up that I wanted. If you are a general collector chances are you would pick 4 or 5 up in Fiji and maybe as many as 50 in Australia at the present time.

We still have plenty of the club Jim Beam bottles to sell (\$2 each to members plus postage) and a limited supply of the Northern Alcophialist Club and David Smith ones. Anyone want to buy 150 club bottles?? Seriously, suggestions for selling them would be very welcome.

The Buy, Sell and Swap will return next time if anyone cares to send me their "wants" or list of swaps. Also returning by popular demand (I think one member asked for it!) will be a competition. Suggestions for competitions would also be welcome, but better still make one up, send it in to me complete (without answers) then I can join in as well.

The address for the magazine is c/of P.O. Box 384, Wellington.

THE MINIATURE 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:

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COVER BOTTLE

This is the sixth cover I have been responsible for, my first as Editor. I have been trying to borrow this bottle for over a year now to show you. We have Dianne Opie to sincerely thank for lending it to us. Note that under NO CIRCUMSTANCES does she want to sell or swap it. -
If she changes her mind kindly form a queue behind me.

The bottle is a slightly narrow flask with the front and back being rounded. The cap is made of bakelite and screws on. From the shape and cap my guess would be that this bottle was filled in the 1930's. It is significant that no other N.Z. mini has appeared in this type of bottle. The label is a cheap brand of white paper with black lettering and skull and crossbones. It states "GUARANTEED FREE FROM POISONS, OLD HOKONUI, PASSED ALL TESTS EXCEPT THE POLICE, BOTTLED BY ME FOR YOU, PRODUCE OF SOUTHLAND, SUPPLIED TO ALL SNAKE CHARMERS".

The whisky is illegally distilled and to the best of my knowledge at least, the only illegal whisky, bottled, labeled and sold in miniature - anywhere.

I quote from an advertisement published by Wilsons Distillers:

"The first settlers to Dunedin (Gaelic for Edinburgh) were drawn from the ranks of the New Free Church of Scotland, and many had learned to use pot-stills for making whisky as naturally as they learned to go to church.

It was not long before the new settlement had developed the pot-still tradition into a commercial undertaking. The new antipodean whisky soon "outdistanced all competition and secured first prizes in all Australian colonies" said the Otago Guardian.

The Government stepped in and closed the distillery. There are allegations that it was a result of pressure applied by Scottish interests. Who can say, but the distillery closed. However, whisky making in the Scottish tradition had firmly taken root and there followed the legendary "Hokonui" home distilled whisky.

It was not until February 1974 that New Zealand whisky was again a free mans choice. On this date Wilsons whisky went on sale."

What the advertisement fails to say is that distillation and sale of Old Hokonui largely ceased as a result of pressure from the new, and legal, distillery.

Old Hokonui was from the founding of the colony until quite recent times distilled in sufficient quantity for it to be sold (almost) openly over the counter of out of the way pubs in Otago and Southland. Rumour has it that some is still made - can anyone confirm that?

I know of two other bottles identical in every respect. A round version with an identical label was put up for auction in Palmerston North last October, it fetched a staggering \$80. The lady who bought it (and incidentally beat yours truly to it) has seen two other identical round ones.

I am going to really stick my neck out and say that I don't believe the round bottle is genuine. I still believe it is a highly desirable bottle but I do not believe it contains illegally distilled whisky.

On the back there is a label stating "1967 CONFERENCE IN SOUTHLAND". The bottle is a 'stock' New Zealand bottle being slightly tapering towards the bottom. C.S. Passmore have used this bottle for ROYAL VIKING brandy, LARSEN cognac and RICARDO rum; Hutchinsons (Wholesale) Limited for GOLDEN BELL brandy, Reid Stuart and Company (N.Z.) Limited for their 007 range and Long John Distillers (N.Z.) Limited for LONG JOHN scotch. All these are Auckland companies and all use the same type of cap that appears on the round Old Hokonui - and that needs a machine to attach it!

My guess would be that the round bottle is filled with Long John Scotch but I would be pleased to hear from anyone who knows anything about the 1967 Southland Conference and how this bottle came to be produced.

David Smith

NEW MEMBERS

A somewhat belated welcome to the following members:

Kevin Hewetson)
Marjorie Lynch) Addresses on list.
Gladys Mudford)

We also welcome yet more new members who were not in time to make the address list:

Shirley Kerby, 109 Tui Place, Thames
Nel Leenman, 37 Park Road, Titirangi, Auckland
Janne Matthews, 4a Kinloch Place, Papakowhai.

Do you know someone who collects minis and is not a member? Why not tell them about the club, about our newsletter 6 times yearly and the bottle offers we have for members from time to time. If that doesn't work, strike them with a blunt instrument and rob them of \$10 (or \$15 for a family/household or US.\$9, A.\$9 or £7). Send the amount to the Treasurer c/of P.O.Box 384, Wellington, not forgetting to give us their name and address.

CORIO

My work in Australia took me into the old Corio distillery so I thought you might like to know something about this Australian Whiskey.

The Corio distillery is at, not surprisingly Corio (pronounced core-eye-oh), which is part of Geelong (which is an hours drive west of Melbourne for those who rate a 'Z' in geography). They started distilling here after the second world war and ceased in 1979. The maltings are now owned by Carlton and United Breweries Limited and the old distillery and bond is still owned by United Distillers Pty Limited. The bond will be used until the end of this year and then the remaining stocks of maturing whiskey will be transferred to the Barossa Valley (buy yourself a map).

If this is your favourite tipple you will be happy to know that there are adequate stocks for a few years yet.

The miniature has been produced in a number of versions over the years, the most common being several versions of the 'black label' as shown.

Most Corio miniatures, like the ones shown, have appeared as flasks, there are however, a few round bottles to be had.

Happy Hunting.



NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Sunday the 15th April at Ian Butcher's 60 Discovery Drive, Whitby at 2.00 p.m.

Hopefully the next magazine will be out by then, so if you have any articles the magazine editor would like them by the 7th April. Sorry for the short notice.

May, June and July meetings will be published in the next magazine.

Part 2 left us going to see Fabio Vicinansa in Rome.

We got a taxi and had a hair raising ride to his shop in the Via Oderisi Da Gubbio 186. We were in luck, Fabio was there, although he was very busy in the shop at that time. He quickly showed us where the bottles were and left us to it. We spent half a day in the cellar under the shop surrounded by miniatures and we again had a ball. There was so much to choose from and we eventually bought about 200 bottles, mainly microminis and ceramics. We were not looking forward to the taxi ride back to our hotel, however, mid afternoon Fabio took us, for which we were very grateful.

We were not sorry to leave our grotty Rome hotel when we boarded the bus and headed for Venice. Our accommodation was at a hotel in Montegrotto about a 45 minute drive from Venice and it was excellent. During our day in Venice we visited the lace factory, the Venetian glass factory and of course St. Marks Square and different buildings of interest. Walking through the narrow streets we found little shops everywhere and purchased some very nice glass ornaments, miniature size of course, but no bottles anywhere. From Venice we went to Austria for a 2 night stay in Vienna. We didn't see a lot of Vienna, in fact we were disappointed with the city. Maybe it was the wrong time of the year to go there, but anyway we did pick up some nice violin shaped miniatures. After travelling through Italy the scenery in Austria was quite refreshing. From Vienna on to Innsbruck via Salzburg where we had a lunch break and an hour or so to look around. It is a beautiful city and we certainly didn't like leaving so soon. We also had a few hours at Innsbruck and were lucky to find a few unusual porcelain minis e.g. a boot, pipe, mushroom, stove and jerrycan.

That night we stayed a few miles from Innsbruck at a Chalet in the mountains. In the evening the sky went black and there was thunder and lightning all around us. It was a beautiful sight and we watched it for hours from our balcony. Early in the morning we left for Mannheim, the highlight of the day being without a doubt the lunch break in Munchen. We had a look around the centre of the city and then made our way to the famous Hofbrauhous where we had a king size beer and a very tasty lunch while listening to Bavarian music. Too soon did we have to go and continue our journey.

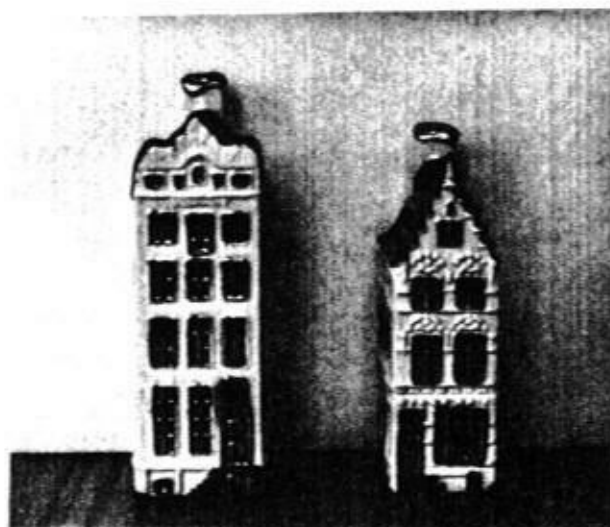
For us the end of the tour was in sight. We got on the bus for the last time, Mannheim - Amsterdam, with sweet thoughts of sleeping in the next morning. Travelling part of the way along the Rhine we soon arrived at Boppard. We had a look at the shops while the others went for a short Rhine cruise. At this stage we didn't look for minis anymore; no more room in suitcases and bags. The lunch stop was at Cologne so we had a look at the Cathedral, there being no time for anything else. It was strange to arrive in Holland by road as we had always arrived at Schiphol airport on previous visits. That night we went for dinner in a typical Dutch cafe and felt quite at home. In the morning we got up just in time to say goodbye to our fellow travellers leaving for London.

Staying in Amsterdam for a few days before meeting up with our relations we had a look around the city and decided to postpone the buying till our next visit a week later. As it was, our aunties wondered what hit them once we had settled in at their place and started packing parcels. To our surprise most of our relations had a mini or two hidden away in a cupboard, but I can assure you that they haven't got any now. We even got a Delft KLM house from an uncle. On a river/canal cruise with cousins on their motorlaunch we came through Ulrecht and went to a liquorstore there. They had a few miniatures we didn't have yet and the shop keeper gave us a bar figure "Abbots Choice". We collect bar figures also, but these are becoming very hard to come by and expensive.

We found that in Amsterdam all liquor stores stock some miniatures but the shops with the best selections are Noord's wine and Liquorstore, Singel 516 and H.P. de Vreng & Sons Nieuwendijk 75

(Editors Note:
the two delft houses shown
are replicas of those on the
Singel.)

Before leaving for Japan we sent home as much as possible, even shoes and some clothes so we would have plenty of room for our anticipated purchases there.



The flight with British Airways over Anchorage was rather boring but we certainly cannot complain about the service as there was none!
(Editor again: Being British my advice, unfortunately, is stick to Air New Zealand.)

While in Japan for a week we made a 4 day tour of Tokyo, Hakone, Kamakura, Nara, Kyoto and were very well looked after in every respect. Only the weather let us down with 3 typhoons around the country resulting in low cloud and heavy showers. From Kyoto we made our own way by bullet train to Osaka.

Taizo Shiratsuchi of the Osaka club met us at the station and made us very welcome indeed. He showed us around the city in a chauffeur driven car and took us to a bottle store with lots of miniatures we had never seen. We purchased a few straight whiskeys and vodkas, as well as the Dorville canon brandy, Barrel on stand brandy, Lantern brandy and the Montequiou knight armagnac, all very beautiful. Taizo invited us to his house for lunch, a great honour in Japan, so we had a chance to see his large collection. I have been swapping with Taizo for some time so he had a few bottles for me and also got me a set of 12 beautiful ceramic dogs. We met his wife and son and had a most enjoyable day getting acquainted with some of the Japanese customs. In the evening they took us out for dinner and selected a typical Japanese dish which we enjoyed immensely. Afterwards they showed us a few floodlit fountains and took us to a shopping mall before delivering us safely to our hotel. Taizo

insisted on picking us up next morning to take us to the station for the journey back to Tokyo. In Tokyo we roamed the shops, saw so many articles new to us we forgot to look for minis. Our suitcases overweight (9 kilos), we went to the airport in plenty of time for our departure and being one of the first checking in, got away with it. Relaxing during the flight home, enjoying the good service of Air New Zealand and reflecting on our holiday it was indeed a trip around the world via (almost) 80 bottlestores.

Ironically, the day after our return we were informed that only one new bottle had appeared in New Zealand during our absence!!!

Erica Mulder

CHARCOAL MELLOWDY

Obviously a Negro spiritual with a hint of Scotch *

GIN AND BITTERS
GIVES YOU JITTERS
VODKA LEAVES YOU HIGH
EVEN WHISKEY
CAN BE RISKY
ON THE ROCKS OR DRY
TOT O' BRANDY
COMES IN HANDY
WHEN YOU FEEL YOU'LL DIE
BUT BEENLEIGH RUM
CONSOLES THE TUM
AND KEEPS YOU FIT AND SPRY

B.A.S.

* Tune - Coming Through the Rye.

The writer was in Australia in early December 1983, was driving between Surfers and Brisbane when I saw the Beenleigh Rum Distillery, conducted tours available. Good, a chance to add to my miniature collection. Saw the above poem on the wall in the waiting room, asked if I could borrow a pen to write it out as I thought it ideal for our magazine. Tour of distillery interesting but alas they do not bottle their fine products in miniatures. Most upset as they make several varieties. They celebrate the firms centenary mid 1984.

 Russell
Thomson

By now everyone knows that dancing is one of the most popular forms of entertainment in Boozeville. Radio wasn't developed until about 1920 so the way to do was with live music or record players.

Large crowds gathered at the dance pavilion in Boozeville. On this night the tango and turkey trot were in vogue.

Turkey Trot was made in two sizes. The 5 1/4 inch and the larger 6 1/4 inch. He wears a black suit with black shoes. She has on a light purple dress, red shoes, and her hair is yellow. Pretty colorful!

Tango was also made in two sizes and is more common as giveaways go. The bottom of Tango shown here is printed with the words "Compliments of Sam Zenovich The Reception." This place was located at 84 Union Square, San Francisco and was no doubt a very popular dance

hall. The owner left his name on a number of these little giveaway dance bottles. It would be interesting to know just how many of these are left around. After looking for them for fifteen years, I only have this one with the printing. This one is the small size and might have been given away to winners of certain dance contests.

Another Tango I know of has "Compliments of The Subway Saloon, Paul Frohvery, Prop

Fresno, Cal."

So far seven styles of dance bottles are known...with name variations on three of these. And, there are quite a number of color variations.

It is hard to say if all the dance bottle types have been discovered; very likely not. So you never can tell when you will happen onto an unknown style. Maybe it will be at the next flea market or garage sale you attend. Maybe tomorrow. --L.M.--

A Visit To Boozeville

by Lloyd McLeod



COCKTAIL OF THE MONTH

To two who are (almost) confirmed alcoholics (hic - pardon!) it is a constant source of amazement that so many collectors have never tried many of the more 'exotic' or unusual liqueurs and cocktails. Miniatures such as Creme de Frais, Creme de Banane, Apricot Brandy, Amaretto, etc. sit in collections year after year never to be tried. I AM NOT ADVOCATING THAT YOU START NOW. However, if you have a miniature with a badly damaged label, try it. Few liqueurs will go off even after a decade or more. Failing that, next time you are at a pub/bar/tavern/watering hole try something different. If it is an 'up-market' establishment ask the barmen (sorry barperson - yuk!) to recommend or even surprise you with something, you will be unlikely to hate it and may well discover that elixir of life you have been searching for.

In the interest of more adventurous taste buds we shall henceforth be running a 'cocktail of the month'. If at all possible, try it.

(Note - the editor and club disclaim all liability in the event of food poisoning.)

For our first cocktail, very appropriately for New Zealand we have 'Earthquake' - Californian members also please note. This recipe was given to us by a friend (Fiend?) in the U.K. - This is probably about as close as most Englishmen would get to the real thing.

1 measure Creme de Menthe
2 measures Vodka
2 measures Gin
Lots of Ice



We would suggest you use small measures! The Gin is not noticeable but it subtly changes the taste of the Creme de Menthe, heck knows what the Vodka is for.

This very unusual cocktail is a favourite of ours, we even keep some made up under the bar.

Dave and Jackie