

MINIz

THE NEWSLETTER OF PORT NICHOLSON MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



EDITORIAL

So much for me not doing editorials!

The article by Frank Wynn is hopefully the first of a series on how different drinks came into being or acquired their names.

We continue our 'Cocktail of the Month' series with one sent in by an overseas reader. Our first direct foreign contribution - other overseas members please note.

I couldn't resist printing the letter on page 4. All letters to the editor are welcomed and those not positively abusive will be printed! This letter is especially welcome as it suggests ideas for future articles. If anyone has any helpful suggestions please either write an article for inclusion in the next edition or send them to myself and I will write the article.

It's a long time since we printed the name of anyone wanting to swap bottles. It would be nice to have enough information to run a proper 'Buy, Sell and Swap' column once again. If there are any bottles you are particularly looking for, if you wish to swap with collectors overseas (or here) or if you just have a few swaps for sale - let me know and I will tell the world - well the other members anyway.

Finally, I am off on my travels again. I go away at the beginning of June (in time for the L.A. show) and will not be back in N.Z. until the 28th July, therefore, the June/July edition will not be out until August.

Wants to swap with New Zealand Collectors:-

Klaus-Eckhardt Bercht, D-3000 Hannover, Appelstr.22, West Germany.

Irvin Kugel, 219 No. Clarendon Avenue, Margate, N.J. 08402, U.S.A.

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:

Brisco Publications, P.O. Box 2161, Palos Verdes Peninsula,
California 90274, U.S.A.

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COVER BOTTLE

Our cover this month shows MacGregor Kamarilo. Most of you will be familiar with the round plastic MacGregor bottles, including one with Kamarilo in as shown. The flask pre-dates these and only this one liqueur was bottled in miniature at that time under the MacGregor name, although there was a Kiwi Liqueur under the name of Association N.Z. Liqueurs (same Company).

Our reason for putting a MacGregor bottle on the cover now is that we have some good news. MacGregor's, who closed down following a disasterous fire in November 1982 are to start up in business again.

When they had the fire they were planning several new miniatures - including some ceramics which would have been a first for a New Zealand Company.

I'm sure we all wish them the best of luck in getting started again.

N.Z. MINIATURES

Those of you who remeber our February/March 1983 edition will remember our 'Pukerua Pub' competition. This one is similar.

Reading forwards, backwards, horizontally, vertically and diagonally, can you find the names of N.Z. Bottled liqueurs, beers, wines and spirits and the companies who bottled them.

Pat yourself on the back if you get over 30; give yourself a drink if over 40 and have a full bottle if you manage a perfect 50.

Send your answers to the editor c/of P.O. Box 384, Wellington. The person with the most correct answers will receive a club bottle.



S N O S L I W A T T M E T T U G I N E A
Y O R P S N H G I A U A P R S A N N E B
E D A E G K I S C L O O C E H T N O A R
B R S N E M T L B C T M S G E S B I R E
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I C Y E G A H M W C R C E L R E U T A B
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S F O D R H E A R A L L S I A T J E I V
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N A G I U A R T U I P A L E A L E V T W
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I A I A Z A P S M A I L L I W C M E C R
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S T U O T S T L A M T A O U R A M I T A
A T M V U R E D N A X E L A Y D N A R B

21 Terry Crescent
PALMERSTON NORTH

30 April 1984

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Port Nicholson Miniature Bottle Club
P.O. Box 384
WELLINGTON

Dear Sir

Being an 'out of town' club member is in most organisations a total failure. Not so in this club. In fact the time and effort you put into the newsletter is a credit to the club. Clear layout, informative and well presented. I don't really feel as though I am out of town or out of touch but I would like some help.

Given a small collection of 230 miniature bottles, how does one catalogue them? Do I value them? Do I insure them? What is the ideal way to display bottles without having to constantly dust them?

Perhaps I have asked some obvious questions and I guess there are many books on the subject of collecting. One or two I have looked at tell me nothing I can be sure that works.

Has the club some proven methods that could help answer my questions? Perhaps members could share these ideas through the newsletter in a series of articles building to become a proven standard for "getting started" or "reshaping the collection".

Thanks again for a spot-on newsletter.

Yours faithfully



KEVIN E. HEWETSON

MINI BEER CANS



I know that this is a miniature BOTTLE Collectors Club and newsletter, but I thought you might like to see these. They are the latest addition to my collection and go exceedingly well with my mini beer bottles.

They are true replicas of the full size cans, the colours being matched perfectly. There is even a ring-pull on the top.



They are available from Chisaii Bin of California for US.\$29.95 (about NZ.\$46.80) for the first set of 18 and US.\$19.95 (about NZ.\$31.17) for the second set of 12, plus postage.

The club has an arrangement with Chisaii Bin that allows payment in N.Z.dollars. You send a cheque for the amount shown to D.M. Spaid, c/of the club (P.O. Box 384, Wellington) and then pay for the postage when they arrive. I am seeing the people who run Chisaii Bin the first week in June so I will take any orders received this month with me.

Incidentally, most of the bottles Chisaii Bin was advertising on the insert we put into the Oct/Nov. edition are still available and can be ordered in the same way.



David Smith



Fascinating Figurals



by **Tony Natelli**

The Barsottini Company of Certaldo, Italy, produced some of the finest, most wanted, imaginative ceramic figurals circa 1958-1965 (approximately). But their set of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs is undoubtedly not only their finest issue but perhaps the zenith of all miniature figurals.

Identical reproductions of the famed Disney characters, these were sold mainly in England with a few sets staying in Italy and a couple of sets which trickled into Oregon during 1962-1963. The sets contained various Barsottini wines such as Vin Santo and Lacrima Chrysti.



Unfortunately for collectors, Snow White, Doc, Dopey, Sneezy, Sleepy, Bashful, Grumpy, and Happy are next to impossible to find. This is due to the fact that they were almost immediately removed from the market because of a royalty problem with the Disney Company. Thus, a very limited quantity were produced. On top of this, due to their limited quantity and the popularity of the subject, the limited amount was obviously quickly snapped up by collector and non-collector alike. All of this further contributed to the non-availability of the bottles.

The bottles themselves stand four and three-quarters inches high and are decked out in brilliant colors. It is doubtful if more than a dozen or so collectors in the United States are fortunate enough to own a set. They are a highlight of even the most spectacular collection.

HISTORY IN MINIATURE

Whilst admiring your miniature bottles, have you ever wondered how the contents are made, how they got their name, what does the name mean, the history of the contents. Some have their beginnings linked with witchcraft, others have romantic stories.

Chartreuse

Arguably, the world's best liqueur is Chartreuse. The original manuscript for making chartreuse was given to the Carthusian Order by Francois Annibald D'estrees, Marachel of France in 1605. Unfortunately, the monks could not make head nor tail of the strange writings and the manuscript was put aside.

When the monks moved to the Grande Chartreuse in Voiron, the manuscript went with them. The story of its magical properties fascinated the monastery's pharmacist Jerome Maubec. He experimented for twenty seven years using the herbs and flowers from the nearby mountains. On his deathbed, he handed the secret of the elixir to Brother Antoine who finally perfected the liqueur in 1764. It was named Elixir de Sante - the elixir of health, and proved its name in 1832 when it was apparently successful in treating victims of a cholera epidemic.

The milder yellow chartreuse was formed in 1838.

The Carthusians are a silent, celibate order, shunning the public eye. The original recipe is still in their hands, but due to the great demand for the product, it is no longer made at the monastery but at a distillery in Voiron. Three brothers carry out the distillation and each one only knows one part of the recipe. Only these three monks know how to make the liqueur. They can be seen at work through a window and they must find it strange to be under the scrutiny of thousands of visitors, then return each night to the solitude of the monastery.

Amaretto

Now one for the Mills and Boon enthusiasts. The story of Amaretto Di Saronno. In 1952, the artist Bernardino Luini of the Leonardo da Vinci school visited Saronno to paint the Frescoes of the sanctuary of Santa Maria Delle Grazie. Whilst there, he stayed at an inn belonging to a young widow. He used the beautiful widow as his model for the Madonna in the nativity scene. To show her gratitude, the widow (not what you're thinking - they don't do that in Mills and Boon books) took fresh apricots and other ingredients from her garden, fused them in alcohol and thus the original Amaretto di Saronno was formed.

Goldwasser

Goldwasser is a direct descendant of the creations of the early alchemists who believed in the magical powers of precious metals. Danzig (now in East Germany) was, for many years the centre of production as the popularity of the liqueur grew, but now the production has moved elsewhere.

The main flavourings are caraway and aniseed. However, in each bottle are flakes of goldleaf, which when the bottle is shaken looks like a shower of golden snow. The Dutch call it "Brides Tears".

Frank Wynn

MANAWATU Collector's Liquor Bottle AUCTION



The writer attended the recent auction of miniature and display bottles, held in Palmerston North on the 14th April. There was a large crowd in attendance including many people whom I had not seen at the previous auctions. There was a catalogue of 347 items including, as well as miniatures, Jim Beams, trays, jugs, masks, and ornamental swords. The auction was expected to finish about mid afternoon but due to lack of bids on some of the larger items the auction finished about 12.30 p.m.

Most of the Jim Beam decanters failed to meet the reserve prices, but a Duisenberg car sold for \$185, and many of the lesser bottles sold for about \$50. each.

There was spirited bidding for the Spanish Swords with prices topping \$120, whilst a Grey and Menzies soda syphon sold for only \$2.

Top price for a single miniature was \$24. for a Qantas Jubilee 1920 Liqueur Tawny Port. A Beneagles chess set (empty) sold for \$130.

There were many bargains to be picked up but many of these were common bottles and so of limited interest to a serious collector. The more unusual bottles sold well, 6 Herman Jansen selling for \$60.

 Russell
Thomson



COCKTAIL OF THE MONTH

Our Cocktail this month comes from Roy Nixon who is Cognac/Brandy Officer for the U.K. Club. He writes:-

First you need a $\frac{1}{2}$ pint tumbler. Fill this with a double measure of Irish Whiskey, one measure of Creme-de-Menthe and top it up with Champagne or sparkling wine.

This is called a Paddy's night out.

(Sounds more like a Paddy's Lights Out - Editor)

These are knocked up at work (I work for Gilbey's) by two Paddies I work with - unbeknown to the management. The $\frac{1}{2}$ pint tumblers need to be used to get rid of the evidence real quick!

Four or five of these leave me completely legless.

Roy Nixon.

I'm not surprised at that last statement - perhaps our less boozy readers would like to try a somewhat smaller quantity first! - Editor.

Incidentally, many New Zealand collectors have the Baby Cham on the left in their collection - this is not a miniature. The true miniature is shown on the right.

The larger bottle is sold in almost all pubs in Britain and is a popular ladies' drink, either on it's own or with a shot of brandy.

Jackie Smith.



FUTURE MEETINGS

All meetings are held on the third Sunday of the month at 2.00 pm

May 20th	Colin Kilpatrick's,	6 St. Edmund Crescent, Tawa
June 17th	Russell Thomson's,	47 Collier Avenue, Karori
July 15th	Steuart Goodman's,	22 Anne Street, Wadestown
Aug. 19th	Dave & Jackie Smith's,	86 Rawhiti Road, Pukerua Bay

Are you one of the members whose subscription is now overdue???

