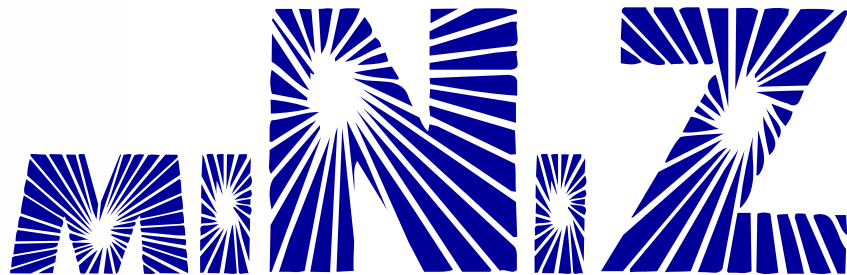
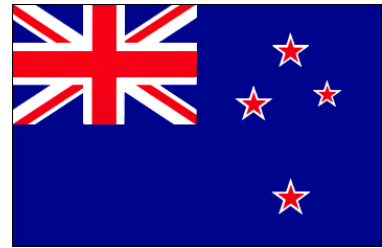


Issue 100

Autumn 2013



THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW ZEALAND MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



Australasia's only Miniature Bottle Club - www.minisnz.com

EDITORIAL, COVER BOTTLES, NEW NZ, THIS & THAT

That must be the longest title I have used but I thought it more appropriate to wrap all this lot up in one article.

Firstly a **VERY BIG THANK YOU** to all the members who have contributed to this special 100th edition of miNiZ. We have had 138 pages of articles and, as promised, everyone who has contributed is represented. I have a good stock of articles for future miNiZ but that does not mean you can all go to sleep as more articles are always wanted.

The cover bottles are, appropriately, from NZ, even though they are 'German Style Schnaps.' These five Zumwohl (Zum Wohl - 2 words - is German for Cheers) come from Aotearoa Distillers Ltd of Wellington. Aotearoa is the Maori name for New Zealand. The first bottle is an older version of the 'Natural' but we have not been able to find out if the other three flavours have an older label as well. Erica Mulder sent me

photos of these in the middle of last year but the email got lost. I was lucky to buy these 5 last month as they have not been selling and the bottle stores have told me they will not be re-ordering. The back of one appears on the right.

Erica recently contacted Deinlein to get some 8th Tribe bottles for another member and was told about the new Macadamia Liqueur. She did, of course, buy some. Erica also found the two vodkas from Belarus with NZ importers labels.



Old Busman is the first liqueur from a company that has brought us a number of whiskies. Ian Butcher found this one.



The Kah Tequila skull is not a NZ bottle but this, together with the orange & white versions, are the first figurals to be sold in NZ for years. You may still find these on sale.

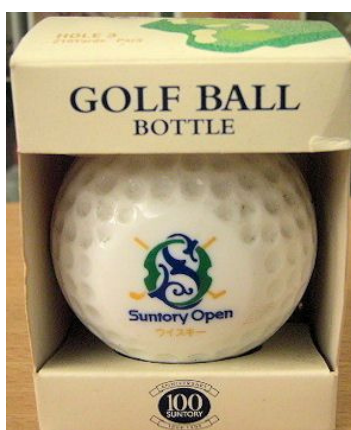
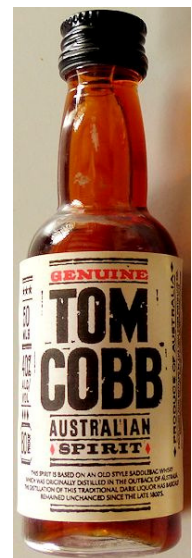
The shot glass bottles, all of which are from Independent Liquor, were found by Ken Chin & myself and all should still be available in 4 or 6 packs. There are also a few older shots still around and even the odd one made in Aussie. I will let them speak for themselves.



This set of liqueurs is from Norfolk Island and is known as 'The Forrester Collection.' Colin Ryder has recently been there and brought back a couple of sets for any member who wants them (at cost). First come, first served, email Colin at rydercj@xtra.co.nz if you want a set.

From Norfolk Island it is another 2 hour flight to Australia proper. My apologies but I cannot remember who sent me this

photo. Genuine Tom Cobb Australian Spirit is a type of whisky. It is 50ml, 40% and in a plastic bottle. It is available over there currently.



I was going to write an article about bottles with 100 on them but this proved to be surprisingly difficult. Not only could I not find many but most of the ones I could find had been shown in miNiZ in the not too distant past (€100 note from Vundec, Queen Mother's 100th book from Rutherford, 100th anniversary of Scott's death Rutherford jug). I found a Cognac from Salignac, 'Over a Century' but I guess that applies to miNiZ101. Which just leaves the Suntory Golf Ball bottle shown. I'm sure there are more and if you can come up with some I will show them in the miNiZ101.

You will find various references in this edition to problems selling minis

on Ebay and posting minis in the UK. The hobby survived without Ebay for nearly a century and our UK collecting friends should know that many countries, if you interpret the rules strictly, do not allow the posting of alcohol (NZ included). I'm not going to give advice but we collectors are a creative lot!



I was watching the Eye Opener pre-pro whiskey flask on Ebay to use in the 'As Seen On Ebay' article but some idiot at Ebay pulled the listing. If this bottle isn't empty I'll eat my hat. It just shows the current inconsistency. It was made by J. A. Bellavance of Nashua, New Hampshire and is in great condition for it's age. I was working on adding bottles from France to Miniature Bottle Library and came across the La Fée (The Fairy) Absinthe. This is an up-to-date bottle that also uses an eye - eye catching don't you think?

I was sent the photo of the three flasks (scientific type flasks that is) by Holm Hars from Germany. They are from Prunum of Serbia, are all variations of plum brandy and are currently on sale.

If you are a member who receives the printed edition of miNiZ you will only be receiving a 20 page edition instead of the special 100 page edition. You can get the 100 page edition by email. Most of you have given us an email address but if you haven't received a download link it means I have no up-to-date email address for you. If you do have email and want the 100 page edition, please email me at minizv@gmail.com



Despite having to be moved, the club had a successful AGM. For the first time in many years we have a full committee.

President:	Colin Ryder	ryderci@xtra.co.nz
Vice President (Northern):	Erica Mulder	erica.mulder@xtra.co.nz
Vice President (Central):	Ken Chin	Kenchin@ihug.co.nz
Vice President (Southern):	Eric Sutton	cisutton@slingshot.co.nz
Treasurer:	Ian Butcher	poppa.chopper@clear.net.nz
Secretary:	Errol Brassett	trc.nz@xtra.co.nz
miNiZ Editor & Webmaster:	David Smith	minizv@gmail.com
Supplies Officer:	Erica Mulder	erica.mulder@xtra.co.nz
Publicity Officer:	Peter Bonkovich	peter_bonkovich@actrix.co.nz

Finally the bottle on the left is confirmation that the conspiracy theorists are right. NASA is conducting a cover up by pretending to only have got as far as the moon in 1969. As you can see, this bottle was bottled on Mars in 1934 by Garnier.

David Smith

MELOS MINIS #2

In this article I would like to feature some more of the great California whiskeys. Also, we'll get into the down side of these bottles, namely the use of decal tax stamps that they had the nasty habit of putting on the labels. I am not sure why this was done, maybe it was part of the laws or maybe someone was just a moron. The good thing is that they did not appear until the later 1930's, so the earlier ones are stamp free. They did use a paper stamp before the decals, but not on the labels.



Another interesting thing is that many of these brands can be found in variations. It's not bad enough that it is almost impossible to find one of them, let alone multiples!

Anyway, bottle number one is Olden Goode Brand Bourbon Whiskey Bottled by Distillers Distributing as were the three in the previous article. The same company gives us Kentucky Druggist Straight Bourbon Whiskey. This bottle is in David Spaid's 101 Rare Whiskey Flasks and is a super bottle!

The last two are Lou Belle from the Sontag Drug Stores and have orange and black labels. The Straight Whiskey claims both LA and San Francisco while the Whiskey just claims Los Angeles. Both of these have the hated decals on the labels. I searched for over 20 years for this bottle and finally acquired THREE in the space of a few months.

Finally, in my last article I made a statement about my favourite bottle. This is really a tough call and my top ten list would have about 60 or 80 on it.



Until next time **MELO** . . .

CARNIVAL

I have had the first four Carnival bottles for over 30 years. The only other place I have seen these is on Carlos Lopez's (Carlpeto) site, <http://www.figuralminibottles.net/> They were made by Luxardo and are of well known Italian Carnival Characters, Balanzone, Pulchinella, Arlecchino and Gianduia.



These same characters feature on bottles by other companies.



On the right we have Balanzone and Gianduia. These were made by Niccolo, who also made a Pulchinella and presumably a Arlecchino. The next two were made by Old Store. They are Pulchinella & Arlecchino. Again, there are almost certainly a set of four as I have seen a picture of an Old Store Balanzone.



Zamperoni made our next Carnival Character. I know nothing more about this bottle but it may be another Pulchinella as he has a lute.



The final photo on this page is a Marchi ceramic (see article elsewhere in this edition) and has been filled by at least four companies, Benedetti, Barfede, Linfa Salus and the one shown, Todisco. Again he probably represents Pulchinella.



Ye Olde Pub Handle is one of many from McLech. This one with, of course, a Carnival scene.

The final Carnival bottle I have to show you is a super rare blown glass piece from Rynbende. This is probably a 1930's bottle and would be the pride of any collectors blown glass collection.

That's all the Carnival bottles I know about and all that appear on Miniature Bottle Library. If you do know of any more send a picture to me at kolitim73@gmail.com or to David at MBL at minibottlelibrary@gmail.com

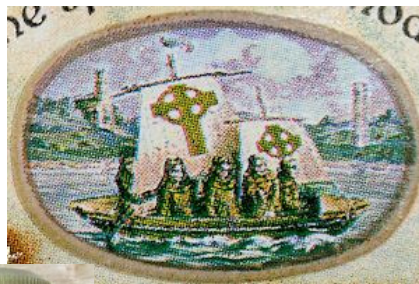
Erica Mulder



SAINT BRENDAN'S IRISH CREAM LIQUEUR

There is nothing special about the bottle on the right. I always wanted one after reading the book 'The Brendan Voyage' and finally picked one up in a second hand shop in Woodville. The book tells the tale of a bunch of Britains who set out to prove that Irish monks could have sailed to America one thousand years before Columbus.

St. Brendan is the most famous of these monks and his name appears numerous times in books written by the monks in the seventh and eighth centuries.



The group set out to build a leather boat similar to that used by the monks in the sixth century. They actually found a leather company that used the same methods of leather making from five hundred years ago (I always knew the English were a bit slow). They finally make their boat and set off. They first sail to Iceland, then Greenland and finally America. The hard part is coming back as they are against the prevailing winds.

I have no idea what the cream liqueur tastes like.

Frank Wynn

10 BOTTLES YOU PROBABLY DON'T HAVE IN YOUR COLLECTION

(AND WHY YOU DON'T HAVE THEM)



1. Rudo Tequila –It's only available in the U.S. in 2 states (Texas and Georgia)
2. Kama Sutra –Your wife found the bottle and tossed it out
3. Dodge City Double Barrel Whiskey-Available in a small Region of the Midwest U.S.
4. Mischief Whiskey new bottle-Available in a small region of the Northwest U.S.
5. Mischief Vodka new bottle- Same as Whiskey
6. Blue Wave Vodka-Available from a small distillery in the Northwest U.S.
7. Macallan Whisky- Available at the 2012 MMBC show limited to 50 bottles
8. Babicka Wormwood Vodka-only about 25 of these available
9. Ferrari Scotch Whisky-When given the choice of this car or one you can drive you chose the one you can drive.
10. Kara Vodka- If you did have it, you would have let it go to one of the many collectors looking for it and purchased 10-15 bottles you want with the proceeds.



Ron Gabbard

OLDER RARER WHISKIES #1

My name is Gary Carvey, I am retired and I live in New Zealand on the beautiful Kapiti Coast.

I have been collecting mini bottles since 1995, beginning with anything I saw and very soon realising I had to specialise because of the hundreds of thousands, maybe millions out there.

I got some advice from David Smith and from that conversation I chose the whiskies of Scotland and nothing from anywhere else. My collection consists of single malts, vatted malts, blended, ceramics, micro minis and gift packs.

Here is a selection of some older rarer whiskies from the blended section of my collection.



Ambassador has a cork top and was blended and bottled by Taylor and Fergusson of Glasgow. It was distilled at Scapa, Kirkwall, The Orkney Islands and is very likely Highland Park from the 1930's

On the right is a bottle from English bottler, Addison & Co from Preston in Lancashire. This Special Reserve is an example of one of one of several of their whiskies that became available in the 1960's.



The next one on the left is from Arthur Booth Ltd, established 1885 in Glasgow. This bottle is a liqueur type whisky bottled at ten years old. It has a cork top and a dark brown bottle with a scooped shape base. It dates from the 1930's

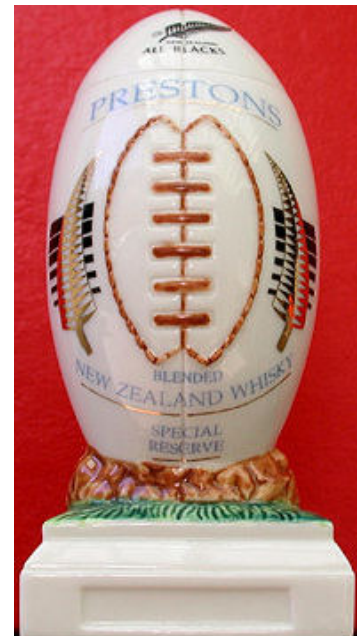
The bottle on the right is from James Sword of Glasgow, Established 1810, a company which put out many different brands in the earlier part of the last century. Bank Note Liqueur Light Bodied has a cork top and a brown bottle with a flat base. The label is wavy top and bottom and shows the Scotch to be 75° proof. This bottle is another from the 1960's.



Gary Carvey

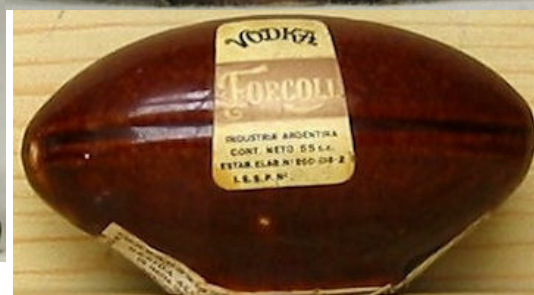
RUGBY RUGBY RUGBY

Where would New Zealanders be without Rugby? The national game of a mad passionate nation could only lead itself to having a miniature bottle made in some form, all be it in ceramic format. The first two rugby balls below relate to the ALL BLACKS, even though these are NOT miniatures I thought were worth sharing anyway. In saying this there were two miniature sample bottles made of the "WHITE" rugby ball (3rd photo) and Erica Mulder has one. My eye is on these two and one day they may fall into my possession, without any sneaky underhand tactics (you could always shoot Erica! - Editor). The content of the large "WHITE" ball is New Zealand Blended Whisky 37.5% vol Special Reserve 70cl. The "BLACK" rugby ball is also New Zealand Whisky 8yo 40% vol. To my knowledge there is only one black ball in New Zealand as they were made for the Japan market and only available at duty free.



The next four photos are actual miniature ceramic rugby balls in my collection. These are all Welsh containing "Welsh Whisky". There are at least 7 variations of this bottle. Note that the first is another larger bottle (50cl - 500ml)





Forcoll Argentinian Rugby balls come with different contents and there does seem to be some colour variation. Shown are Whisky, Vodka and Grenadine syrup.



The ball on the left is from France. It was made for the Rugby World Cup in France in 2007 by St. Roch Lem & Co. This bottle is as rare as hens teeth and has only turned up on one web site that I know of.

The only English rugby balls are from McLech. As with the Forcoll balls there are colour variations

They have been filled with Sherry & Mead .



The final ball is the only glass one I know of, this time from Suntory of Japan.

Peter Bonkovich



CAN I HAVE MY WORMS ON THE SIDE PLEASE?

"It is said that the one who eats the worm will have good fortune"

Yeh, Right! I'll stick to my rabbit's foot and four leaf clover, neither of which I have to eat.

There are a variety of foreign substances put into liquor bottles but by far the best know is the worm in Mezcal bottles. In a future article or articles I will show you some of the others.

Let me confess that I have never even tried Mezcal but, even if I did, eating the worm holds no attractions. Yes, I am sure, like most insects it will be full of protein but, like most Westerners, eating insects is not something I want to do. Yes, I know that worms are not insects but the Mezcal worm is not a actually a worm. It is a caterpillar, the larval form of the moth *Hypopta Agavis*.



There are various stories as to how producers came to put the worm (gusano in Spanish) into bottles of Mezcal. Stories say Aztec priests added the gusano to pulque and that the gusano in Mezcal continues that tradition. Other tales say it was used to test the strength of the Mezcal in an age when innkeepers sold weak booze - the dead gusano proved the Mezcal had enough alcohol in it. None of these tales has been proven through historical record. The following is the one I believe to be true.

In 1940 Jacobo Lozano Páez moved to Mexico City from Parras, Coahuila, Mexico to study painting in the National School of Arts of San Carlos. He got a job at La Minita, an old established liquor store in downtown Mexico City . Working at the liquor store included bottling Mezcal and this changed his aspirations from artistic to entrepreneurial and he became a successful bottler and trader of Mezcal.

Jacobo met his future wife working in the liquor store and in 1942 they started a small bottling operation, Atlántida, which his wife ran. They collected used bottles and cleaned them for their operation. The couple bought Mezcal from the Méndez family in Matatlan, Oaxaca.



In 1950 Jacobo discovered that the maguey (agave) worms gave the Mezcal a different flavour. This was because his distiller was using poor quality or poorly cared for cacti. When the plants were cut a lot of the worms remained in the heart and were cooked with the plant material.

This is how he got the idea for a distinctive marketing approach, adding a worm to the bottle. He also included a small sack with salt, seasoned with the same dehydrated and ground worms, and tied this to the bottle. Unfortunately for Jacobo other producers recognised this as a great marketing idea and a worm is now added to most cheaper Mezcal. Most premium Mezcal distillers don't put a worm in the bottle. A number of Mezcal producers also include a seasoned salt sack. Adding a worm is very much an export oriented ploy though as Mexicans don't usually drink Mezcal with a worm, and homebrew or local Mezcal rarely include one.



An urban myth suggests the gusano is an aphrodisiac. Some producers claim the gusano adds flavour to the Mezcal, others argue it detracts from the Mezcal's taste. Mezcal destined for the North American market generally have a single worm, Mezcal for the Asian market may have as many as five, one for each drinker. The Japanese are among the Mezcaleros' best customers.

There are two different types of worm in Mezcal - red (rojo - considered superior because it lives in the root and heart of the maguey - colloquially known as the chinicuil) and the less-prized white or gold (gusano de oro), which lives on the leaves. The red gusano turns pale in the Mezcal, the gold turns ashen-grey. The protein-rich gusano is considered a delicacy in many Oaxaqueño recipes and have been sold in Zapotec markets since pre-Columbian times. (see, the locals like their worms on the side!)

Most of the worms are collected from wild plants by Zapotec Indians, who sell them to the distillers.

There appears to be a number of different ways to prepare the worms. One method takes the small (about 25mm long) gusanos, cleans them, then soaks them in a vat of water for a year. Another method soaks the worms in Mezcal, which additionally cleanses them of any materials and waxes that might affect the Mezcal's flavour. Some producers harvest the worms in the rainy season from the common pulque agave. They are then washed and cured in a solution of 47% alcohol to leach out natural fats, which moderates their taste.



In 1995, some Mezcal producers began a movement to ban the worm, but others rejected the idea, worried that North American buyers would miss it. They feared that the

worm had become so entrenched in urban mythology that consumers in North America might reject Mezcal without a worm as not authentic. So pervasive has the worm identification become that it has also tainted the world view of tequila, a similar but highly regulated product.

The fight went all the way up to Mexico's federal government and eventually the Mexican Health Department decided the worms are safe for human consumption and allowed them to stay. The movement to ban the worm lost steam and was pretty much forgotten by 2005.



A few Tequilas also contain a worm (see El Sonorio) and I even know of one spirit made in the Czech Republic that has a worm in it (see Cervovice).

I will let the Mezcal bottles speak for themselves, except for the last one. This Dos Gusanos (2 worms) is said to be unique - clearly someone got carried away!



David Smith



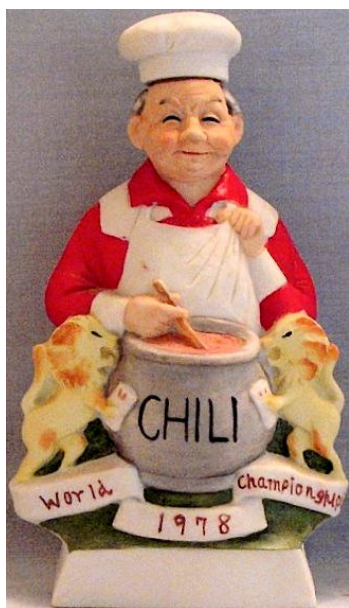
Never mind 'on the side' what about a main course?

When fully mature the worms appear fleshy-red and can measure up to 65 millimetres . They are considered a highly nutritious delicacy. One 100-gram serving contains over 650 calories, or the equivalent of two plates of rice. While they are sometimes eaten alive and raw, they are also considered delicious deep fried or braised, seasoned with salt, lime, a spicy sauce and served in a tortilla. Bon Appétit!

SEVENTIES SAMPLES

So what do you do for an article that will be in a one hundred page issue? I thought of the autobiographical stuff...but who cares. I thought of showing some vodkas or tequilas but then there are many who have more and better bottles than I in those categories. And then I looked at one of my cabinets and saw these three bottles. These are sample bottles which were never produced for sale. So...here's the story.

Originally the MBC bottles got started in the early 1970's when a man named Joe Kaufenberg contracted with a southern California pottery maker to do some bottles for him in his back yard kiln. He produced miniature slot machines and a variety of bottles for both Las Vegas and Reno, Nevada as well as many other pieces. During the course of his life Joe had got to know Stan Laurel's daughter Lois and thus went to her to secure the rights to do some Laurel and Hardy bottles. There was the Laurel and Hardy in a car, two separate bottles of each of the characters and then what was to be the best were L & H as circus characters. You can see the Oliver Hardy Ringmaster bottle on the right. However, since this piece was mocked up in Japan, the price was going to be way above what all the other MBC bottles had retailed for...namely \$4.95. So the Ringmaster bottle never got beyond the mock up stage. I don't know if a Stan Laurel mock up was ever made.



Later on in the decade, the man who provided the liquor for the World Chili Championship thought it would be good to have something to give all the participants...as well as sell on the retail market. So back to Japan for another mock up and on the left you can see the result. Again this was a misfire and it proved impossible to get the bottle produced, approved by the U.S. government for filling, filled and ready in time for the 1978 Championship. If this had gone into production it would have had either an MBC or Lionstone label. By the time the 1979 Championship was announced the idea was out of favour and another good ceramic miniature didn't make it beyond the mock up stage.

A year after that the largest liquor store in northern Nevada was selling so many regular glass miniatures and ceramics from Ski Country, McCormick, Grenadier, etc. that the owner wanted to get in on the

action. The logo of Dart Liquors was a happy little man counting all the money he'd saved by shopping at Dart. Thousands of customers drove from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and California to take advantage of their prices. The logo of the happy little man was dutifully sculpted by an artist in Seto, Japan, (a suburb of Nagoya where 60,000 of the 100,000 inhabitants worked in the porcelain business) and eventually presented to the owner of Dart. He loved the bottle...he just didn't want to pay for it. And, the third of our seventies samples never got to the production stage. If it had it would have been a Grenadier bottle.



This same story may be told about samples from Ski Country, McCormick and others. Hey, how about the Playboy Bunny...a sample of that even exists as a miniature bottle.

David Spaid

AS SEEN ON EBAY #26

Despite the panicking of some US collectors you can still buy and sell minis on Ebay. It is not as easy as Ebay US now bans the listing of them but seems to turn a blind eye, most times, if the listing states empty. Ron Gabbard recently pointed out the stupidity of this with the picture of a WF Kangaroo - it sounded like a Tui moment to us.....

Unfortunately idiots like this (the seller not Ron) make it more likely that Ebay US will pull any alcohol related items. Get an account on Ebay France/Germany/UK etc if you want to sell minis. There are less on sale but we have found some interesting ones for you.



We start with two gems, neither of which were shown on Miniature Bottle Library. The first bottle is the head of the Katzenjammer Kid, a comic character from the early 1900's. This was made for Bishop & Babcock in 1906. At 85mm (3.35 inch) high it truly is a mini. We were surprised to see this go for just US\$47.77, but then bidding was restricted to US buyers. The second bottle unknown to us is from Mount Hope. Called 'We Volunteer Because We Care' the bottle features a Fireman & Paramedic and dates from 1990. Does anyone know if this is a sample bottle? US \$180.27 bought it after 6 bids, despite the seller wanting US\$35.30 for postage.



We start the next page with another unlisted mini, the brown pawn, picked out in black, from Calamassi of Italy. MBL had the plain brown version listed but not this one. We were surprised that this sold for US\$42.99, especially as it contains red wine rather than a spirit. The dice is another Italian mini, this one from Niccolo and containing grappa. The sale price was a disappointing £5.50. Our final two ceramics both come from the UK, the first is from England and is the Masthead Lighthouse from McLech. This contains Devon Mead and the £1.20 sale price reflects both the fact that it contains mead and that it is a very common bottle. The Glenfiddich 5cl 18yo single malt flagon

is, of course, from Scotland. We could not get much further away from the Masthead in price as this sold for £565 despite it having no box.



Above are four bottles that are not bottles, if you know what we mean. I (David) collect items like this and in fact have the first of these. This is a corkscrew from the period 1890-1910 and there are dozens of these. (You unscrew it just above the label, the screw swings out, and you then screw the bottle back together to act as a handle). These corkscrews in the shape of mini bottles, and mainly labelled like a drink mini, are very collectable in their own right. I have a number of these, including a different Dewars that I have never seen listed anywhere on the internet. However, this is probably the second most common of these (the most common is one of the two variations of Budweiser) and the sale price of £33.33 reflects this.

Dating from around the same time is the J G Stewart Scotch Whisky Cigar Cutter mini. £18.00 seemed cheap to us but we are not experts in this area. The Thorne's Whisky mini is, we think, a

cigar cutter and match holder. Again this seemed to sell cheaply at £20.00. The J&B Scotch bottle is Sterling Silver. That alone would make it expensive but nobody wanted to buy it at US\$451. It has been relisted then relisted again at US\$390 but still it did not sell.

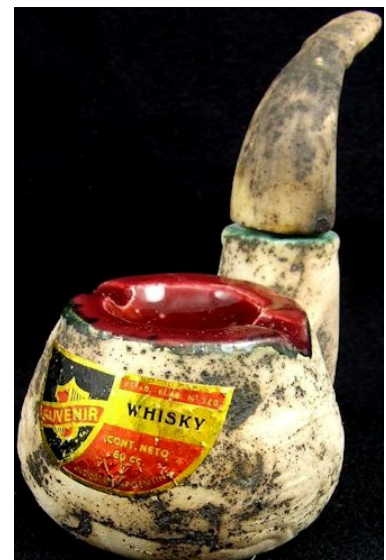
About time we had a few straights and we start with four Scotches.



Glenglassaugh single malt is 5cl 40% and sold for £94.99. Gilbeys Spey Royal is said to be empty, however it did sell but only for US\$7.50. McCallum's Perfection is another empty (possibly!) Scotch. US\$17.49 bought it after 6 bids. Unfortunately the King William IV VOP Scotch did not sell, even for the asked for minimum bid of US\$7. The obviously empty Suntory Rare Old Island Whisky No.3 sold well - US\$29 -after 10 bids.



The three Bourbon flasks all sold well, despite being empty (yes, these really are). G&W (1928) US\$39 after 10 bids, Golden Pond (1936) US\$52.33 after 8 bids and Manhattan Club (1937) US\$57 after 8 bids.



The final bottle is a pipe and ashtray from Suvenir of Argentina, containing whisky. US\$13 bought it after 8 bids but the postage cost of US\$15.80 must have affected how much was bid.

David Smith & Peter Bonkovich

WILD TURKEY

One of the classic Wild Turkey Bourbon figurines is the Series 1 set of 8 ceramic turkeys. You have most likely seen some of them individually, but here is the entire set.

The individual pieces were produced and released between 1976 to 1982. Number 1 is called STANDING or THE STANDING TRUKEY. Number 2 is called ON LOG or TURKEY ON A LOG. Number 3 is called ON WING or THE FLYING TURKEY. Number 4 is called WITH POLUT or TURKEY AND POULT. Number 5 is called STRIDING or TURKEY RUNNING. Number 6 is called SPIRIT OF 76 WITH FLAGS. Number 7 is the same figural as number 6, but shows the opposite side of the decanter with pictures of various versions of the American Flag. Number 8 is called TAKING OFF or TURKEY READY TO FLY. Number 9 is called STRUTTING or STRUTTING TURKEY

Of all these decanters, decanter number 6 was, and still is the most difficult bottle of Series 1 to find. You would also think this decanter was released in 1976 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the United States of America. This decanter, in fact, was issued in 1982.



Jim Crawford

WHAT'S YOUR **EXIT** PLAN?

One of the pleasures of collecting minis, as I am sure all of you know, is showing your collection to a new visitor – my wife insists on being present to enjoy the reactions, especially from folks who never suspected the astonishing variety of bottle shapes, label designs, liquor types and flavors that have taxed the creativity and imagination of the producers and bottlers.



And the questions that follow are typical: Which one is your favorite? Which one is the most expensive? How many are there? What's all of this worth? What's the oldest? Where did you get them? And on and on. But one question that gave me pause the first time I heard it was "What's your exit strategy?" This from a much older person, who must have been giving consideration to how he was going to ultimately dispose of his belongings once he could no longer devote the effort required to keep up his collecting passion.

I've given this uncomfortable question a lot of thought, and because I've noticed an increase in the average age of club members (notably in the US) I thought it might be of interest to share with you my thoughts, and would certainly appreciate any other ideas or suggestions to improve my plan.

The obvious choices seem to be these: pass the collection on to a family member or close friend, or sell it, in part or whole. In my case, I have a married son who is interested, but does not have the space (my collection is about 24,000 strong, and we have a dedicated collection room approximately 6mx12m, that could stand expansion).

Selling the entire collection intact is possible – but only *IF* I could find someone like the gentleman who established the Mini Bottle Gallery in Oslo (www.minibottlegallery.com), which has 53,000 minis (but only 12,500 on display). As I recall, he purchased the entire 18,000 bottle collection of the late Tony Dobyns to help build up the gallery. If you're a potential buyer, make me an offer!

Selling it piecemeal is an unwelcome task, made even more difficult by eBay's latest change in rules precluding the sale of containers of alcohol (and the UK Royal Mail's recent decision to disallow shipment of minis). And I really would like to keep the collection intact.

The answer I came up with will keep it intact, will make it available for display to the public, will keep ownership in my family, and will still allow me to add to it and enjoy it as I have all of these years. I have drafted up a "Museum Loan Agreement" under which I would agree to loan the entire collection to a local museum for an unspecified amount of time; ownership remains with me or my heirs; either party may cancel the agreement with a specified number of months' notice; the museum will agree to insure the collection for a specified amount, and will exercise reasonable care in maintaining the collection and protecting it from vandalism or exposure to extreme temperatures; the museum is free to exhibit it, photograph it, and advertise it. There are a number of other details relating to packing and moving, displaying and cataloguing, and so on, some of which still have to be worked out, but the general concept seems to be one which will accomplish my objectives.

The curator of the candidate museum has visited my collection, and has enthusiastically agreed in principle with my proposal. The next step is timing. My wife and I have been planning to downsize from our large home to an apartment or condo, and once our moving plans become clear, we'll enter into serious negotiations with the museum, which coincidentally is moving to a new larger location. So perhaps later this year or early next I'll have an announcement of a new location you can visit in the greater New Orleans area to see the fruits of my effort!

Harland Johnson (miniliq@gmail.com)

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HOW TO TOTALLY RUIN A MINI BOTTLE

First off, this is NOT my bottle. Someone has taken a fairly valuable King Leo Bourbon and turned it into a piece of junk. The label has been scotch taped on and liberal amounts of wax have been applied.

To me personally, the worst thing you can do to a bottle is use tape ANYWHERE! If the label or stamp is loose use Elmer's glue or something similar and carefully smooth it down. NEVER use a permanent type glue.

I also really dislike wax, it usually doesn't work and can cause the cap to rust. Either way you usually end up with a mess. There is a way to stop evaporation, but it takes a certain amount of skill and takes too long to explain.

Finally, I would value this bottle at US\$75 to US\$150 in decent condition, but I would have a hard time paying more than US\$10 for this piece of crap.

Until next time **MELO** . . .



DATE, TIME & PLACE

Sunday 13th April 2013, 12.30pm Pot Luck Lunch, Ian Butcher's, 5 Sunburst Court, Paraparaumu.

Telephone: 04 904 3157 E-Mail: poppa.chopper@clear.net.nz

Sunday 15th June 2013, 12.30pm Pot Luck Lunch, David & Rosie's, 11 Trevor Terrace, Paremata.

Telephone: 04 233 2997 E-Mail: minizv@gmail.com

Saturday 16th August 2013, 6.00pm Pot Luck Dinner, Ken & Malee Chin's, 29 Norton Park Avenue, Fairfield, Lower Hutt. Telephone: 04 938 1488 E-Mail: Kenchin@ihug.co.nz

Sunday 19th October 2013, 12.30pm Pot Luck Lunch, Colin & Dianne Ryder's, 20 Prospect Terrace, Johnsonville. Telephone: 04 478 4391 E-Mail: rydercj@xtra.co.nz

Saturday 10th January 2014, 6.00pm Barbecue, David & Rosie's, 11 Trevor Terrace, Paremata.

Telephone: 04 233 2997 E-Mail: minizv@gmail.com

Friday 21st - Sunday 23rd February 2014 AGM Weekend in Auckland - Details to be advised

If you want to hold a meeting please let one of the committee know.

WHY NOT JOIN US?

NZ Membership with miNiZ emailed to you is NZ\$15.

NZ 3 Year Membership with miNiZ emailed to you is NZ\$37.50.

NZ Membership is \$25 if you want miNiZ posted to you (see note below).

Overseas Membership with miNiZ emailed to you is US\$10.

Overseas 3 year Membership with miNiZ emailed to you is US\$25.

Overseas membership is US\$30 if you want miNiZ posted to you (see note below).

You may join at any time as membership runs from the month you join, not the calendar year.

IMPORTANT NOTE: It costs us NZ\$28 per annum to print miNiZ and post it to local members and NZ\$40 (plus \$5 if you pay by cheque) for a US based member, so the members taking miNiZ by email are effectively subsidising those that want a paper copy. For this reason **we encourage members to take the cheaper, emailed miNiZ, membership options.**

Membership can be paid in cash or NZ cheque. Add US\$5 to the amount you are paying if you want to send an overseas cheque as it costs the club to cash it. Alternatively you may pay your membership by PayPal to minizv@gmail.com This is David Smith's PayPal account and he pays the club the equivalent in NZ\$. If you are a new member PLEASE email us your contact details (name/address/email address & phone number)

I hope that you have enjoyed this special 100 page 100th edition of miNiZ. Did you contribute? If so a VERY big thank you. If not, why not? We have had a number of members contribute that have never done so before and others that have only occasionally contributed articles in the past. If you are one of those don't be a stranger - we need articles for future editions. Thanks again. David Smith (Editor)