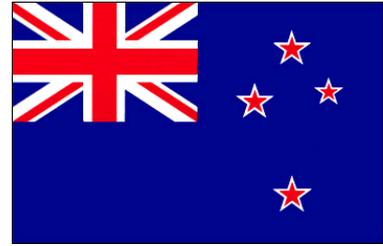


Issue 100

Autumn 2013



MINISZ

SPECIAL 100TH EDITION

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW ZEALAND MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



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

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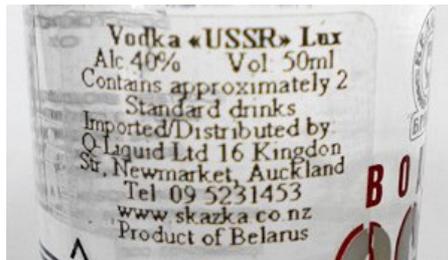
EDITORIAL, COVER BOTTLES, NEW NZ, THIS & THAT

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.



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.



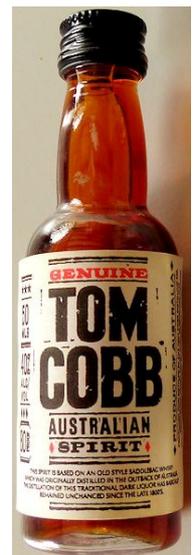
The shot glass bottles, all of which are from Independent Liquor, were found by Ken Chin & myself and all should still be available in 4 or 6 packs. There are also a few older shots still around and even the odd one made in Aussie. I will let them speak for themselves.



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	rydercj@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
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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

Coca-Cola

For all you Micro-Mini collectors, here is something just for you. All of these small Coke bottles are .25oz, & 76mm tall. The first picture shows the progression of **Coca-Cola** bottles from 1894 to 1923.

The second picture shows the evolution of the designs for the Coca-Cola special SANTA bottles put out in 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, & 1936.



Jim Crawford

RON GABBARD'S FAVORITE BOTTLES

If you have been collecting for any length of time, and had friends or families over to see your collection then you have been asked THAT question. **Which one is your Favorite?** If you have a collection of 5 or 10 bottles then that might be any easy answer but if you have over 1000 bottles then how do you just choose One? (Imagine how much tougher it gets once you surpass 10,000 bottles). Most of my bottles have a story, there is the Eifel tower bottle my Son brought me back from his trip to Paris (along with some great stories that inspired my collection, but that is an article for another time), the bottles from my first trade with a collector in Spain, the elusive (for me at the time) George Washington and Betsy Ross Bottles from McCormick Patriots series so I could finish the set, the first bottles I bought at a flea market 35 or so years ago that started the collection, or that special bottle I found (and there have been a few of those) at the Midwest Miniature Collectors Show in St. Louis. It's always been difficult for me to have "a favorite bottle". I do have favorites and the other thing I have noticed in some of my favorites have changed over the years. So here I will share with you some of my "current favorites". Ask me again in 5 years and I'm sure there will be some new favorites as well as some of these "long time favorites".



This is a set I got in the last year or so. It is Absinth 44, 55 and 66. I have always found colorful bottles to be unusual and when I saw these I thought they were very nice looking. The way I got these bottles is part of what make them favorites. I was told by a collector that these bottles could be found on an Asian collectors site. I checked them out but was not real happy with the price (and shipping costs). I saw they were from Germany so I contacted a collector friend in Germany to see if he might be able to get them. He was able to, at 1/2 the price. (And I was able to trade bottles as part of the deal) nothing like having trading partners all over the world.

The Singles Bar is a set that has been a favorite for quite awhile. I first saw the set on e-bay and tried to get it. I liked the fact that it is a book that opens up to reveal the bottles. I was disappointed to be out bid the first time I saw it. I watched for months hoping to see another one. Finally another came up for bid and I was determined not to let it get away this time. I even got lucky as there were fewer bidders and I picked it up for less than I had bid on the first one. It contains Tamnavulin 12 year old, Tullibardine 10 year old, Bruichladdich 10 year old, Isle of Jura 10 year old, and The Invergordon 10 year old Scotch Whiskies and a tasting glass.





At last Years St. Louis Show they had a set I had been looking for in the Auction. I got into a bidding war and paid a little more than I had planned but now the Kilchoman New Spirit Set is part of my collection. This set comes boxed with One month, one year and two year old spirit. It goes well with the rest of my Kilchoman bottles and also with my Isle of Arran set containing 1995 First Production, 1996 1 year old and 1997 2 year old spirit



And I can't forget the Eifel Tower Bottle my son brought me back from Paris. He brought another dozen or so bottles too, this one sits on my desk whereas the others have been put on the shelves with the rest of the collection

The McCormick Patriots set is one of the first sets I "completed". When I started collecting, I found 1/2 of these at local liquor stores but the others proved more difficult to find. I got Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin, John Hancock and Patrick Henry. After over a year of looking, I stumbled across someone selling the entire set at a Flea Market. The person was willing to split the set up (something I have told myself I will not do with my sets) and I was able to pick out the bottles that were hard to find, leaving him with the 4 least popular of the set, From my research at the time, I had found out that Betsy Ross and George Washington were the two hardest to find. Paul Revere and John Paul Jones are the other 2 bottles.



NZMBC HISTORY

Marge Hollis was a dressmaker who collected miniature bottles and worked from home. Two of her customers saw the bottles and revealed that they too collected. In January 1981 the three of them, Marge Hollis, Helen Marson and Phyl Walsh, decided to form a club, as there appeared to be no club in New Zealand for mini bottle collectors. In February 1981 they put a notice for an inaugural meeting in a local Hutt Valley paper. Only one other couple turned up, Ross and Debbie Page. Despite this they decided to found the Hutt Valley Miniature Bottle Collectors Association, with Ross as the inaugural President.

Over the next couple of months they gained a couple of members from elsewhere in the Wellington region and a proposal was put forward to change the name to the Wellington Miniature Bottle Club. A couple of the original Hutt Valley members objected to this and a compromise name was adopted, Port Nicholson Miniature Bottle Club. Port Nicholson is Wellington Harbour and both Wellington City and the Hutt Valley border it.

In July 1981 I saw an advertising card that they had put into a local bottle store (liquor store / off-licence) and phoned the contact about an advertised meeting the following Sunday. I was told that it would be a waste of time my turning up as they were not attracting members and would probably close the club. Talk like that is like a red rag to a bull to me so the following Sunday my late wife, Jackie, and myself turned up - and shook them up! Jackie became secretary, a position she held most years until she died in 1998 and I was elected as a committee member. I have been a committee member of one sort or another ever since.

Membership increased only by two or three over the next year, then we had a stroke of luck. We were approached by someone trying to sell a collection of about 600 bottles. I held an auctioneer's license and offered to auction them. We advertised for more bottles to go in the auction and got about another 1800. We held the auction on Saturday 26th March 1983 in an empty floor of a building my business partners and myself had recently bought. We contacted the Wellington newspapers and hit the jackpot with The Evening Post. On the Friday before the auction they printed an article and a large photo of Jackie behind some of the bottles and holding up more - on the front page. The auction was a great success. We doubled our NZ membership and increased our membership overall by 150% as we gained our first overseas members. Some people who joined as a result of the auction are still members. The commissions on the sales amounted to many times the previous club funds and left us with enough money to properly promote the club.



Later in 1983 Manawatu Auction Co. of Palmerston North held the first of the three mini bottle auctions they held during the 1980's. At each of these auctions members increased their collections and we signed up new members for the club. In the mid-80's some members had a falling out and started a rival club, the New Zealand Miniature Bottle Collectors Association. This ran for about three years before merging, in January 1987, with the, by then, much larger Port Nicholson Miniature Bottle Club. At a meeting in the late 80's I suggested that we change our name to the New Zealand Miniature Bottle Club, as Port Nicholson no longer fitted, but the motion was defeated.



Unbeknown to the founders of PNMBC when they formed the club, another mini bottle club already existed and had been in existence since sometime in the 1970's. The Northern Alcophilist Club was Auckland based and had members as far south as Rotorua, which was as far south as practical as they relied entirely on meetings and never published a newsletter. Erica Mulder was a member of that club before ours and tried to get them to work together with us. They did not wish to know us, although they were happy for us to arrange a personalised Beam bottle for them. They closed in the late 1980's and a few of their members joined PNMBC.

miNiZ was first published in an A4 format, in 1983 and from then on, in theory at least, originally six times per year and now quarterly.

Originally published so we could keep in touch with, and recruit members elsewhere in NZ, it was quickly turned into a newsletter of interest to a growing number of overseas members. Over the years miNiZ has changed considerably. Originally it was a few pages pasted together and with much of the information from other alcohol/bottle related sources (ripped off without permission and often without even an acknowledgement of the source!). Today it is still in an A4 format but has evolved to a quarterly publication in full colour. An index of all editions and articles can be found on the web site, <http://www.minisnz.com/miniz.html>. Editions of miNiZ, other than the last two years, are available for anyone to download and club members can request a link to up-to-date editions also.

Our first meeting outside Wellington was in Wanganui in October 1984. Membership had then grown to 48. In February 1986 the club had it's 5th birthday and held the AGM for the first time on the farm of Di & Ron Opie at Patea. This became a tradition that

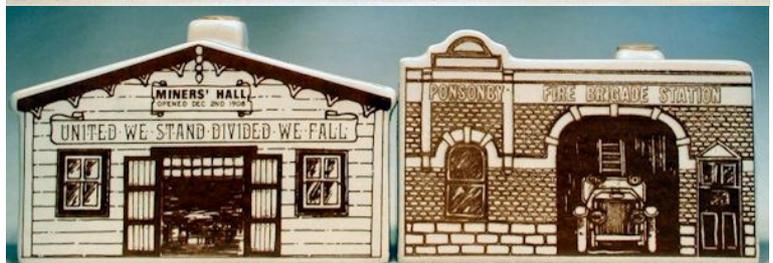
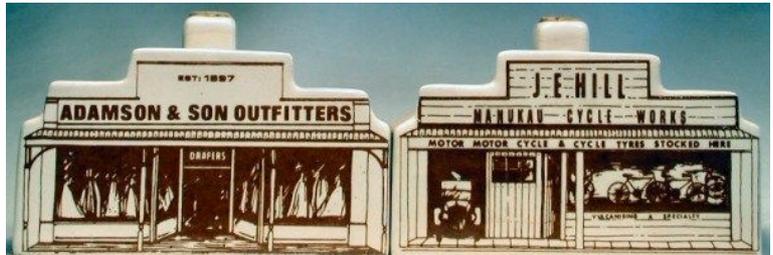
lasted until the farm was sold in 2004. Members got far more than just an AGM as it was always a lively long weekend away. Activities included walking, fishing, boating, tennis, petanque, shooting, swimming (in later years there was a large indoor swimming pool) and much more. We barbecued, spit roasted a whole pig or sheep and ate some of the crayfish (lobster) that Ron had caught. In fact food was never a problem as there was always too much. The composite above is the graphic we made to publicise the weekend and it was later on teshirts. Particularly in the early years, when



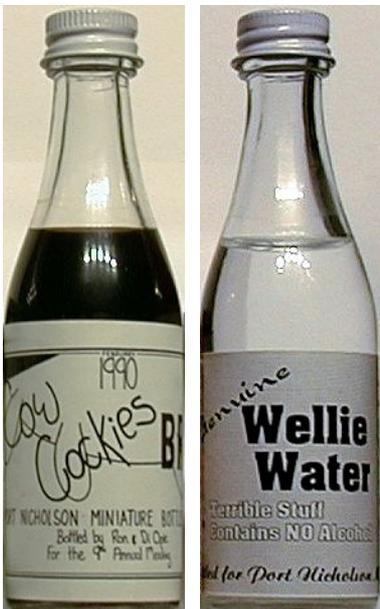
many of our members had smaller children, it was a real family weekend. The swapmeet was always by far the best of the year.



Over the years the club has always supplied bottles to it's members. Usually these are hard or impossible to obtain elsewhere and always they were sold at a very reasonable price. Although profits per bottle were small, this became a major source of funding for the club and even now the cost of running the club (printing miNiZ etc.) exceeds the cost of membership. Undoubtedly our biggest 'coup' was obtaining the permission of Air New Zealand to have a run of 70 sets of The Colonial Collection made for sale to members. Most of the members would not have been able to obtain them if we had not done this as Air New Zealand only gave these away for a few weeks in 1986. As a result of this promotion the club grew to it's largest membership, before or since, 120.



The club has also made a number of 'Club Bottles' over the years. These included Port Nicholson Gin & Vodka,



a set of four Ports, the 7th, 9th &



10th anniversary bottles and two bottles for the Millennium. We held a competition for the design of this bottle and could not make up our minds as to which of two were the best - so we made both.

One bottle of note was Wellie Water. Hundreds of these were given free to bottle stores to give away to people who bought minis. Each had a tag on it advertising the club. The idea seemed a great one



but it was our most unsuccessful promotion as we gained not a single member!



Our 16th Anniversary bottle was given free to all members. Two of our former members died and left us their collections, the proceeds of which paid for the bottle (and more).



The club also organised a set of seven bottles based around the 150th anniversary of the founding of

New Zealand (1840). The labels were designed by a Wanganui artist and there is one error in the dates which was never picked up by him or the committee, one of whom came from Wanganui. Wanganui was founded in 1840 not 1890!

The latest club bottles were a boxed set of five for our 25th Anniversary, which used miNiZ as our brand. These were made for us by Southern Grain Distillers.



PNMBC was the first Miniature Bottle Club with a web site - and the second! Two of us, Errol Brasset & myself, were working on sites (secretly) at the same time. Errol beat me to it by a month so my site was altered to become 'Drinks Links' and complimentary to the main club site. Our hosting company, Voyager, closed down in 2003 and

Errol (temporarily) left the club, so we were without a web presence until the current site was posted in 2006.



If you have access to the internet but have not looked at the web site, you are really missing out. There are links to every known miniature bottle site worldwide, including mini bottle orientated Facebook pages. This list is arranged by country and where known, includes an email address of the collector. It is updated about every six months as sites come and go. There is an extensive list of bottles the club has for sale, as well as links to other minis for sale via the Web. There is also a list of all known NZ Minis, with pictures of most. We even have a section on how to date minis, although this is very US oriented.

As mentioned above, you can download back copies of miNiZ but did you know that you can also download almost all Miniature Bottle Collector magazines? Member David Spaid kindly allowed us to scan these a number of years ago. There are still a few issues missing but we hope to have these on-line soon.

Have you got your profile on the web site? Few of you have but there are enough there to make this an interesting area. Want to put your profile up? Have a look at the existing ones then send me a bit about yourself and a couple of pictures - I will do the rest.

Meetings over the years have varied between lively and abandoned through lack of interest! Originally the third Sunday of every month, the club now meets every second month in Wellington.

This usually takes the form of a barbecue or pot luck lunch. Members always bring some new bottles to show and usually there are bottles to buy or swap. Until the series of devastating earthquakes in Christchurch our Canterbury members were meeting regularly as well. Hopefully we can get back to that happening now that the earth seems to have settled down. Meetings have occasionally been held in Auckland but, strangely for by far NZ's largest city, we have few members from there.

The AGM is still a weekend away but, sadly, no longer in Patea. It is still always a good weekend though and now rotates between Wellington, Christchurch and Auckland, where the next AGM will be. Apart from the obligatory copious amounts of food you get to view a number of other member's collections, hunt the local bottle stores and second hand shops and spend only a few minutes sitting through a not-too-boring AGM.

In February 2008 we changed the club name to the New Zealand Miniature Bottle Club. We have been a national club since the 1980's so this name finally reflects who we are.

So, where to from here? The club will keep going as long as New Zealander's continue to collect minis. There are less and less places selling minis in NZ but, with the ease of making labels now, more and more minis are becoming available - many of which are only exported or made for special occasions. We now often deal direct with the manufacturers to ensure our members can get their bottles.

A number of mini bottle clubs around the world have folded in the last few years and it was a great loss to the hobby when Miniature Bottle Collector ceased publication as this magazine bound both collectors and the mini bottle clubs together. The internet shows how international the hobby is and collectors are showing up in dozens of countries. Our introduction of emailed copies of miNiZ (for a considerably cheaper annual membership fee) should help grow the membership again (it is 50+ at time of writing). I'm optimistic.

David Smith



There is no reason, other than to fill the space, for these Old Hokonui.

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

I AM A COLLECTOR

I am Bill Baker, a collector in St Louis, MO, USA. This is brief history of my collection.

I started at a very young age while on family vacation in Alabama. All my friends were collecting beer cans but my Dad was not a beer drinker, so I started collecting his empty minis. Multiple Beefeater vodka mini bottles got boring quickly and I convinced my Mom to let me collect full bottles. I still have the very first one bought in a store in Mobile, AL.

As my parents traveled Internationally there would be some added every year. Once I got out of college the collection was around 400. Thankfully I had some free time and decided to learn how to use Excel by putting the collection on my "new" computer. I moved to Tennessee, which was a big mini state, I was making good money and the collection grew considerably - quickly.

I then moved to Chicago. While killing a few minutes before a business meeting in downtown Chicago (back when they sold minis there) I was in a liquor store checking out the selection. I mentioned that I collected them and a customer over heard me. He told me about the MMBC (Midwest Miniature Bottle Club) and that there was an annual meeting coming up in a month or two at a Chicago hotel. I don't remember who this member was but I would have a lot more money, a lot fewer great bottles and many less friends if I had not met him. (I also first made contact with other miniature bottle collectors by going into a liquor store in Chicago and being sold a copy of MBC - editor)

I went to that show and can still remember the feeling of walking into the room. I could not believe there were that many people who had the same crazy collection as I did and also how many bottles there were for sale. Needless to say, I maxed out the ATM withdrawal that day and could have been described as a hungry kid with a sweet tooth in a candy store. I was hooked.



I joined the MMB Club, signed up for a subscription to the magazine and was off.

A few years later I moved with my bride back home to St Louis. Funny how things work out, that was the same year the show moved to St Louis and was run by Tony Dobyms (I sure miss him!). We are now getting ready for the 34th Annual Show and probably close to the 20th in St Louis. The 35th in 2014 will be one that you should not miss! I have been the Show Coordinator for several years and enjoy seeing how this crazy hobby brings people from all over the World to St Louis for a weekend of fun, friendship and bottles!

My wife, Molly, and I have made a couple trips to Europe. The first was a month long Eurorail backpacking trip. Our agreement was you had to carry whatever you bought. That worked great until she was forced to take a handle of the new duffle bag stuffed with mini bottles after the first week. I still hear about carrying that duffle bag. I got some great bottles though!



The collection is now over 4200. Due to space concerns I have become more selective in my purchases but frequently have friends bring bottles back from their foreign travels. They get a kick out of finding one I don't have that gets added to the collection. I have never specialized and enjoy buying bottles I like regardless of the contents. I am a big fan of Jim Beam and have over 60 different Beam bottles. I also gave out custom Beam bottles, in place of traditional cigars, when our kids were born.

I hope everyone who is reading this great edition will have the chance to make it to St Louis for one of our April shows. I would love to meet and share the fun with you. Just make sure you bring some good bottles to trade!

Happy Collecting!

Bill Baker

SKI COUNTRY

Most of you will recognise all, or at least close to all, the 'standard' Ski Country decanters. But did you know that a number of 'special edition' decanters were made that are the same shape as the 'standard' decanters but plain coloured? I am going to show you pictures of a few of these not so common decanters, together with the 'standard' ones.

Talavai Kachina, Southern Kachina Series. 960 coloured and 36 silver miniatures were produced in 1992.

Oldsquaw Duck Banded, Waterfowl Series. 1146 750ml and 1104 coloured minis were produced in 1992. The 'Pewter' miniature is an auction Commemorative and also dates from 1992. It is one of 96.



The Red and Blue Skiers, made in 1972, are not difficult to find but have you ever seen the gold version. I have no further information on this.



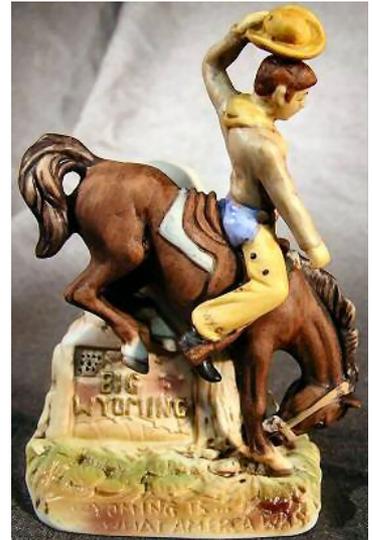


The Safari Lions are one of the later Ski Country decanters but I am not sure what year this decanter was made. The silver version is another auction Commemorative.

Ski Country has changed hands a number of times over the years. The Soaring Eagle was made by the current owners in 2010. It is the only decanter they have made so far and they made four versions.

Three Hundred were made of the 'standard' mini, 50 of the white, 30

of the silver and 20 of the gold. The gold version is therefore undoubtedly the most difficult Ski Country decanter to get hold of, other than sample bottles. And possibly also the original version of Big Wyoming where America was spelt wrongly (spelt Amerca). It is not known how many of these got into circulation.



If you know of any more of these 'specials' please send a photo to the editor.



Erica Mulder

VODKAS

Here are some unusual Vodkas you may not have seen before. The first bottle is **Chambord Vodka**. It's actually Vodka with a little Chambord mixed in to give it a Chambord flavor. Next is **Kiroff Vodka**. It is a fantastic looking glass bear shaped bottle that was made in France in 1999. There are a lot of Vodka collectors out there who have been trying for years to get this one from me. Good luck trying to find this mini.



Next is **Liho-Blanice Vodka** from the Czech Republic. There are a number of these type bottles (each with a different woman) that was produced in 2002. The interesting thing about these minis is the clothing disappears from the woman when the bottle gets wet! I have been told, the clothing re-appears when you dry off the bottle.

Moving on to the next bottle, **Scorpion Vodka** is very unusual since it contained a real Scorpion! It nice to look at, but there is no way I would drink this vodka.

The first bottle in the second picture is real interesting. Do you know where it is from? It was made in Jordan, of all places. This mini is **Rheeb Vodka**. A large number of labels with provocative looking women were produced between 1994 to 1999. They actually made all types of alcohol with these type images on the labels. While bottle labels no longer have images of women on them, Jordan still produces spirits today, so never rule out finding miniature bottles of alcohol in some Islamic countries.



Next is **Titanic Vodka**. This mini was produced in Germany in 2000. The next mini is **AK-47 Vodka** that was made in China. An unusual point about this mini is a saying printed on the side of the label. In very small print, it says "GOD BLESS THE DRINKER. AMEN!" I found this mini in 2010, and I have never have seen this bottle available again.

Finally, the last bottle is **Las Vegas Vodka**. This is a real nice looking label with images of one of the great American Tourist destinations. What is unusual about this miniature bottle is that it was produced in the Republic of Belarus in 2008!

Jim Crawford



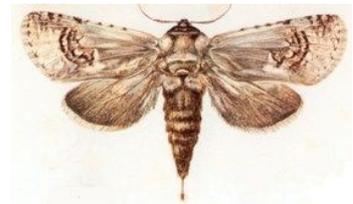
CAN I HAVE MY WORMS ON THE SIDE PLEASE?

"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.

I STILL LOVE SETS



Ten years ago I wrote an article for the MMBC Newsletter entitled "The Lure of Sets." In the intervening years the lure has not diminished, so it seemed appropriate to show you some of the more interesting or unusual ones in my collection. I'm distinguishing between series and sets – series are groups of minis that have a common theme and are added to periodically, sometimes annually, like the KLM Delft houses or the MMBC Show bottles; or irregularly, such as the Pisco houses from Peru, or the newest flavor of Van Gogh Vodka. There is also a group that falls between open-ended series and sets – the limited series that were issued over a period of time and then completed/discontinued – for example, the Old St. Andrews golf balls commemorating 36 winners of the British Open, or the 13 Famous First ceramics.

Although I collect all of the above, today I focus on examples of mostly uncommon boxed sets (out of the approximately 250 I have) containing from 2-16 minis. You may have several of these, but perhaps there are a few that need to be added to your search list. I've tried to avoid ones that have been featured recently in various newsletters (e.g. Ken Chin's article on boxed whisky sets in Issue #97 of MiNiZ) or the MiniBlast, and apologize if I repeat.



In honor of the "home team" I start with one of several sets issued by Southern Grain Specialties in New Zealand, some commissioned by the NZ Club, including this one commemorating its 25th Anniversary in 2006 and featured in issue 73 of the miNiZ. Thanks to the cooperation of various Club members, I have been able to get many of these excellent sets from NZ --- international members, take note.

Now let's turn to some favorites of mine – beginning with fancy cognac sets. One of the nicest is shown at the top of the page -- a lovely presentation set of five Grand Champagne Premier Cru Cognacs from Domaines P. Frapin: three straights including Chateau Fontpinot XO, Frapin VS Luxe, and Frapin VSOP; one gold-trimmed watch-glass shaped Frapin Extra; and another gold-trimmed Frapin XO V.I.P. The set below contains three Volare Grande Champagne Cognac XO Superiur 10cl ceramic minis in blue, maroon, and white from the Maison Francois Peyrot that I obtained through a Taiwan distributor. To the right is a classic set from Otard, with four elegant minis containing Otard XO, Napoleon, VSOP and Extra Cognacs.





Above is a colorfully-labeled four-mini set of VSOP Cognacs from Lablanche; on the right, an old 6-bottle set from A. Hardy, with samples of cognac from the different regions shown on the map in the box lid.

Closely related are the Armagnacs -- the Chateau Laubade on the left has four minis containing 1985, 1990, VSOP and HA varieties, while the six minis in a set from Castex d'Armagnac below span the vintage years 1944-1985.



Now for something completely different, as John Cleese would say. From the Buffalo Game Reserve in South Africa, Jack's Jungle Juices in screwtop test tubes – apricot, peach, and strawberry brandy. And from Tianjan Foodstuffs Exporters in China, via Holland and Germany, five Golden Star brandies.





On the left, from Hungary, a set of four attractively labeled apple, apricot, cherry, and plum brandies. And from Yikvei Zion of Israel, above, two wines and four liqueurs in 40ml cello-shaped bottles reminiscent of Nannerl minis from Austria.



On the left, from Domain Mercier, 40ml Adam & Eve French grape and pear brandies. Staying with France, here's an uncommon set of six 42ml different variety wine minis from Cave Saint-Roch à Beaumont-Sur-Oise.



Also from France, one of my favorite bottlers, Vedrenne, has issued some lovely sets of liqueur minis including this one illustrating Great Women of the Louvre. And beside it, also from France, a mini carrying crate containing four 3cl minis of pear, cherry, plum, and strawberry eaux-de-vie from Jean Gauthier's Musée del'Alambic.





Peru has contributed many sets, many, as might be expected containing varieties of pisco, such as the set paying tribute to Macchu Pichu. But there are also some attractive blended Scotch whisky sets, bottled in Peru, such as the one by Knight promoting World Wild [sic] Conservation. I'm not sure if that title is a play on words or an error. Royal Highness, another Peruvian whisky set, has attractive labels showing the "7 Wonders of the World."



No discussion of sets can omit the contributions of the leading set issuer, The Whisky Connoisseur of Biggar, Scotland, which has issued at least 140 sets I am aware of, ranging in size from two to 26 (The Alphabet in Miniature). A separate article is needed to do TWC justice, but since very few of the TWC sets are boxed, I've only included one here, commemorating the Dambusters Raid during World War II. The center bottle has a special meaning to me because my uncle was a Lancaster pilot who was shot down over Holland in 1944.



Although I've run across very few port/sherry collectors, you may be interested to see one set of each. First, from Spain, a set of three from one of the oldest sherry producers, La Riva. Next, from Portugal, a fairly recent set of five 5cl ports from Ferreira.



Moving to Eastern Europe, here's a rather large set of brandies from the state-owned producer in Moldova. The patented name for Moldovan brandy is Divin. If you think a 5-star brandy from other parts of the world is special, these Divin minis try to impress – they go up to 15 stars!



Russia was the largest importer of Moldovan wines prior to a Russian ban in 2006 that to my knowledge has not been resolved. The above basket of six 40ml wines, labeled Moldovan Bouquet (Букет Молдавий) was aimed at the Russian market. To the right, a 4-bottle 0.05l set of non-banned Armenian brandies (45-57% ABV) imported into Russia by Artsakh [АРЦАХ], Moscow.



Moving much further east, this assortment of 11 50ml minis was produced by Sikkim Distilleries, in the city of Rangpo, the gateway city to the state of Sikkim in far Northern India, bordering Nepal and Bhutan. The set includes four different whiskies, including a corn whisky and a single malt; a white and a dark rum; four different liqueurs; and a brandy. I obtained a companion set from a different distillery via eBay.

Closer to home is a set of two Pendleton Canadian Whiskies, complete with shotgun shell shot glasses, imported by Hood River Distillers in Oregon.





Another Oregon producer, the small batch distillery Bend Distillery, issued this four-bottle set of 100ml minis featuring three of their own vodkas and a gin.

In the novelty category is this set of six Italian Sibona Tempo Cigars, the “original cigar of friendship,” intended to replicate Havana Cigars. Each 50ml screwtop tube contains a different grappa.



And now a couple of German sets where quantity and variety seems to be the goal. The first, from the Dr. Rauch company is Gräfs TragBar, ten (actually five pairs) of 20ml liqueurs, including coffee, plum, cream, fig, and even aloe vera with tequila. That last one has to be added to my list of strange flavors!



The next German extravaganza appeals to my seven-year old grandson. Sixteen 0.02l assorted liqueurs, brandies and vodka from Nordbrand complete with a mini 18-wheel tanker truck.

Lower left – from my absinthe collection, four 10cl absinthes (70, 75, 80, 85%ABV) from Jacques Seneaux of Spain.

Lower right – six 50ml minis of a Vietnamese concoction called Nhan Sam-Tac Ke-Hai Ma, containing ginseng, gecko and hippocampus, (and 40% ABV), promoted as a health remedy.





I deliberately haven't shown any vodka, rum, or tequila because I wanted to focus on sets I thought were uncommon. I've even downplayed scotch, but I think the one pictured above meets my criteria. It contains seven 5cl bottles of "Spirit Collection Natural Color Scotch Whisky," with each bottle representing a scotch distillery region. The identity of the bottler is not shown, but the set was imported by Globus of Switzerland, which is where I found it and another similar set with seven named distilleries on the labels.



And finally, a couple of years ago I found this fascinating one-of-a-kind set on a business trip to Trinidad. Fifteen different 100ml bottles from the prominent Nonino Distillery in Italy (<http://www.grappanonino.it/en/>), hanging in an attractive wood and plastic display case. It contains six grape brandies, six grappas, one bitters, a pear and a plum brandy. The biggest challenge with this acquisition (once I got over the price) was packing it for transport as part of my checked baggage. The photo shows I was successful!

Harland Johnson (miniliq@gmail.com)

INTERESTING ITEMS IN MY COLLECTION

The below photos show off some of the interesting items that I have in my collection.

Sherwood Rye Whisky dates from the early 1930's. Rye Whisky is very collectible in the USA and I purchased this due to its name as it's the street name of where we have lived for the past 13 years and well as a reminder to the "Sherwood Forest" which my wife has a connection to. The next three photos are of some old Irish Whisky which I have a fascination with. Not made from potatoes as once they were but of barley and I must say after going to an Irish Whisky tasting evening last week, two days after St Patricks Day, I have even fallen in love with some of the whiskies which now are in my liquor cupboard ready for consumption (yes they are the large sort, I don't drink my miniatures, just not right).



The next in the Wedgwood Ceramic Glenfiddich 21yo. When my wife and I were travelling in the UK in 2002 I came across this lovely miniature at the Glenfiddich distillery. The asking price was £27. With the exchange rate then at 0.26c then that was \$105 NZD. A lot of money for a young couple travelling on a tight budget and an unfavourable exchange rate. I must admit that I did think twice about purchasing more maybe another one or two at least but just couldn't justify it at the time. Now these easily sell on Ebay or should I say have in the past sold on Ebay for £200+.



FOR THE KIDS.

I have three young children. In May Jessica will turn 8, Miko turns 5 and Samantha will be 2 ½. They always love it when a mysterious package arrive and they know that it will contain miniatures for Dad. They also get a great surprise as they are helping me open the package to find that it's not always miniature bottles but animals for them. As young children associate more with those kind of things what better way to get them into the art and fun of collecting. Surprisingly they handle the items delicately and very well with only one label being ripped off so far. They play with them for hours on end which brings a smile to myself and them. I am having to start to look at Trucks, Cars, Fire Engines now for my son Miko as there is only a limit of animals and cutie things that a boy can handle and he needs to get into the "MANS" world of toys.



The fire engine is from Mount Hope of the USA and the rabbit and squirrel are both from McLech of England.

The next 12 bottles are all from Luxardo of Italy and were made in the 1970's. There are at least three sets of labels you can find on these. The first set is the Wild Animal set and the second the highly sort after Dinosaur set.





Shown are the Buffalo (Bison), Lion, Rhino, Polar Bear and Hippo. I am still looking for the Warthog. The Dinosaurs are Triceratops, Tyrannosaurus Rex, Stegosaurus, Dimetrodon & Brontosaurus.



There is also another dinosaur that I am still looking for, Ankylosaurus, which together with the Warthog is shown below.



Peter Bonkovich

WHEN AND WHERE DID IT ALL START?

Collecting Miniatures! When and where did it all start? Probably a better question would be WHY! To that there is no answer!

Since I was 8 years old I have collected stamps - in those days lots of young people started collecting stamps to have a hobby for the winter days/nights. Some people continued to collect and the magpies amongst us accumulated a reasonable collection. When I was married in my early 20's I still had a collection.

My Grandfather-in-law had some stamps and also had some miniature bottles. In his 85th year he and Grandma-in-law moved from the hills of Wellington to a grannie-flat at his Daughter's in Auckland . Before he left he tried to sell his bottles as a collection but those that came to view it only want some, not the lot. For the simple reason that I collected stamps and was married to his eldest Granddaughter he decided to give me about half of the bottles - a very bad mistake! – I was at the time travelling around New Zealand as a Finance accountant for a motor company and back then, some 33 years ago, miniatures were quite common in the bottles stores and I began to accumulate a collection.

I was visiting a Wanganui dealer and he invited me home for lunch. Around his pelmet were a collection of bottles which I started looking at. His wife asked if I was interested and I told her I had started collecting to which she asked if I would like the bottles on view. Before I knew what was happening she said the bottles were in a couple of boxes and in the boot of my car! I'm not sure what He thought!



My collection continued to grow and when the Grandfather-in-law passed away the Family decided that as I had been given some 40 of the bottles I should have the rest! And that was when I realised that I had some very old bottles including several lead top bottles. These included two Henry Simpson bottles, one labelled Blue Seal and the other White Seal. There was also a bottle named The Ross and a very old McNish's. There were about 80 bottles in the entire collection.



I have had two other experiences that I consider to have been very lucky - both in Dunedin at different times. I was with a motor dealer and having finished the work we went for a drink at a small hotel in the vicinity. As I walked past the bottle store I looked in and noted some old bottles on the shelf. I went in to ask if they were for sale and was told that they had found these bottles when they pulled down an old shed. There were 5 bottles including two decanters - a Prince Hubert Reserve cognac and a Remy Martin Louis XIII cognac. I cannot recall the others but they were old and the price I paid, which if I remember correctly, was only \$20.00!



The second experience was at a second-hand shop in the Octagon where I found a miniature Cricket Ball, Bowling ball and Soccer ball. And again they were very reasonably priced for full bottles!



Two of my favourite experiences have been my two trips to St Louis and the generosity and hospitality I have experienced from US members, especially Jim Crawford and David Spaid. I still get some amazing bottles/ceramics from Jim at Christmas as the result of a series of transactions whereby I send all the New Zealand stamps issued to a friend in Los Angeles and he sends money to Jim who then sends bottles/ceramics to me and I am absolutely convinced that I come out ahead every time!

Now the problem is space, so the collection is much more selective with ceramics taking priority.

(see another article on Ian's collection later in this issue - editor)

Ian Butcher



NEW BOTTLES

Here are 5 newly issued mini bottles that are different. I think that all of these minis will interest you!

The first 2 are **Van Gogh Cool Peach** Vodkas with the new clear labels. No more frosted bottles since the “Acid Wash” process used to make the older bottles was bad for the environment! The first of these 2 minis, with the white print, was actually a misprinted label. Next to it is the corrected label. Notice that picture of the drawbridge on the first bottle is actually on the back of the bottle where you can’t see it.

Next is a great looking mini **Deadhead Rum**. Instead of calling these cute looking bottles ” Miniatures”, they call them “Pygmy’s”. The only bad thing about these minis is that they are Plastic! I hate plastic minis, but this pygmy is so neat, I had to have it.

Next is **Van Gogh Mojito Mint** Vodka with the new clear labels. Like the Cool Peach, this is another misprinted label with a picture on the back of the bottle where you can’t see it. There is a corrected label out, but I have not yet got my hands on it. I have been told by Van Gogh that this flavor will not be available in the USA, and may be short lived in other parts of the world due to poor sales.

Finally there is the long awaited **Flashbang Tequila**. This is a replica of a Flash Grenade. The actual bottle is inside a plastic grenade casing. There is also a Flashbang Vodka, Whisky, and Spirits. These are fantastic looking miniature bottles, and this is one set everyone will definitely want included in their collection!



Jim Crawford

MARCHI CERAMICS

I'll try again. This is the second time I have written this article. I had the text complete and was more than half way through adding the photos in the style I usually use, then I saved it. The previous save was kindly overwritten by Microsoft with gobbledegook. Thankfully I still had the table and photos and have now placed those at the end of the article.

Some of the information in this article comes from an article in the Italian Club newsletter which took the form of an indepth interview with one of the former owners of Marchi.

At this stage you are probably saying that you have never heard of Marchi, neither had I before I read the Italian Club article. I guarantee that you are familiar with bottles made by them though as they were an Italian pottery. They made bottles both large and small for distillers/bottlers in both Italy and further afield. These included (full size) bottles for distilleries such as Luxardo, Groppi, Cucchi, Frangelico, Jaggermeister (Germany), Croizet (France) & Jim Beam (USA). Exclusive miniatures were made for a number of companies including Garnier of France (Dogs, Birds and others), Galliano (Policeman) and Luxardo.

However, this article is not about the bottles they made exclusively but their 'stock' ceramics (not to be confused with the Italian producer Stock). These were miniatures they made and sold to any distiller/bottler who wished to buy them. For this reason you will usually find them labelled and filled by different distillers. A more modern example of this practice are the clip top glass bottles that are currently so prominent in Europe. These can be found filled by any organisation from a large multi-national to an individual shop. When in Italy last year I saw two shops filling and labelling these glass bottles inbetween serving customers.

Marchi made these stock ceramic miniatures from 1974 to 1983, although some of them had much shorter production runs. Production of each shape was supposedly limited, although some were certainly limited to very large numbers! Once the limit was reached the mould was destroyed. Each year from 1975 - 1982 four new shapes were produced. The company ceased trading in 1993 but Guiseppe Savoca of the Italian Club was able to interview one of the former owners. He stated that 53 shapes were made in total but, as you will see from the table, I have listed 57. One of us has made a mistake but I don't know which.

The table on the next page lists the bottles with all of the distillery variants I know about, as well as the dates made if known. The article in the Italian club magazine also mentions a Butler but I have never seen this bottle and I believe that this is an error. I have shown the distillery of the bottle shown in **red**. There were some colour variations, especially on the mono colour bottles, such as Grey or Brown, Grey or Green. I have shown four of these.

Finally, if you have any of these bottles but from another distillery, please let me have photos of them for MBL: minizv@gmail.com

David Smith

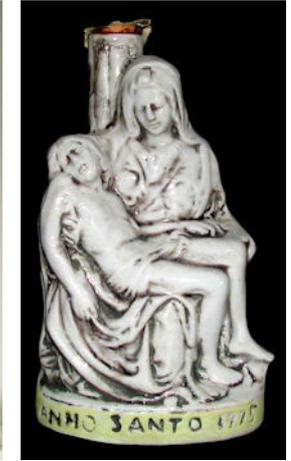
Shape	Years Made	Bottled By (That I know about)
Baccus	1975 - ????	Alpa, Barfede, Linfa Salus
Book	Unknown	Barfede, Fedeli, Gamondi
Boxing Glove	1976	Barfede, Benedetti
Caesar & Pillar	Unknown	Gamondi, Todisco
Canary	1974 - ????	Alpa, Barfede, Boccaccio, Drioli, Gamondi, Todisco
Candlestick	1974 - 1976	Barfede, Boccaccio, Drioli, Gamondi, Scannagatta, Todisco
Cannon	1974 - ????	Bruno, Boccaccio, Cucchi, Fedeba, Todisco
Cannon on Bottle	1974	Boccaccio, Drioli,
Car - Cadillac	1974 - 1982	Boccaccio, Drioli, DVM, Fedeba
Car - Italia	1974 - 1982	Boccaccio, Drioli, DVM, Fedeba, Valenti
Car - Lanchester	1974 - 1982	Belfort, Boccaccio, Drioli, DVM, Fedeba
Car - Renault	1974 - 1982	Boccaccio, Drioli, DVM, Fedeba, Larsen
Castle	1976 - ????	Drioli, Luigi
Citta Vaticano	???? - 1980	Barfede, Fedeli, Gamondi
Deer	Unknown	Cucchi
Dove	???? - 1980	Niccolo, Zamperoni
Duck	Unknown	Cucchi
Eagle	Unknown	Unknown
Elephant	???? - 1977	Brams, Drioli, Gagliano,
Fish #1	Unknown	Cucchi
Fish #2	Unknown	Valenti
Fisherman	Unknown	Linfa Salus, Sarandrea
Flask (Cherub)	1974 - ????	Sarandrea, Soardi
Footballer	1974/5	Barfede, Boccaccio, Drioli, Todisco
Galleon	1974 - 1975	Alpa, Drioli, Linfa Salus
Helmsman	1974	Boccaccio, Drioli, Todisco
Hunter	1974 - 1976	Alpa, Barfede, Boccaccio, Drioli, Scannagatta
Hussar	1974 - 1982	Barfede, Drioli, Linfa Salus, Todisco
Ice Axe & Boot	1974 - 1982	Boccaccio, Drioli
Jesus & Mary	1975	Barfede, Boccaccio, Fedeli
Jug, Blue Flowers	1974 - ????	Barfede, Benedetti
Jug, Wine Cellar	1974 - ????	Barfede, Boccaccio, Gamondi
King Tut	1974 - 1977	Boccaccio, Drioli, Todisco
Lamp	Unknown	Barfede, Todisco
Man with Cosh	1976 - 1980	Barfede, Linfa Salus
Man with Lute	1976 - ????	Benedetti, Barfede, Linfa Salus, Todisco
Monk	???? - 1980	DVM, Linfa Salus, Todisco
Moses	Unknown	Barfede, Gamondi
Napoleon	1975 - 1980	Alpa, DVM, Linfa Salus, Todisco
Old Man (Pink)	1974	Todisco
Pharaoh	Unknown	Todisco
Pillar	???? - 1982	Luigi
Pipe	1974/5	Drioli, Todisco
Rooster	???? - 1980	Cucchi, Niccolo
Santa Claus	Unknown	Todisco
Ship	???? - 1982	Bassano

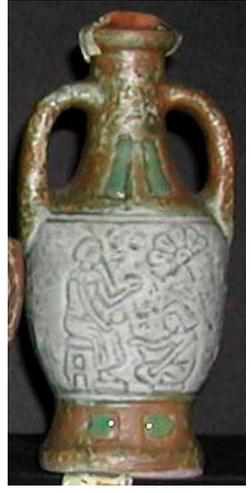
Stag	Unknown	Cucchi
Stallion	Unknown	Cucchi, Valenti, Zameroni
Stork	Unknown	Bruno, Cucchi
Stove	Unknown	Todisco
Telephone	Unknown	Todisco
Temple Dog	1974/5	Drioli, Todisco
Urn	1974 - 1976	Barfede, Drioli,
Venus & Pillar	1974 - ????	Benedetti, Boccaccio, Drioli, Gamondi, Zamperoni
Warrior	???? - 1977	Linfal Salus, Sarandrea
Windmill	Unknown	Linfal Salus, Todisco
Winemaker	1974 - 1977	Boccaccio, Drioli, Todisco

The pictures are in the same order as shown above:









THE TEQUILA TREND

Over the last few years Tequilas have been one of the hot specializations. With the unusual and interesting new GLASS and Ceramic minis coming out of Mexico, is it any wonder. Here are a few of the many Tequilas that have made their way into collectors hands (and onto their display shelves).



Ron
(Skullface)
Gabbard

MY COLLECTION - CHRIS DONKIN

Hi all, my name is Chris Donkin and I live in the small rural community of Opotiki in the Eastern Bay of Plenty. This is my first attempt at an article, which is really just a little bit about myself and my collection.

I have a very small collection of bottles compared to many I have seen in miNiZ and would always welcome any kind donations to add to it as I don't travel that frequently. I sometimes look in awe at some of the collections or parts of them displayed in the magazine.

My collection is very disorganised and I have no strong likes or dislikes. Having said that, I find what I consider really old and decorative miniatures very interesting. I'm not so keen on the new style of tubes but do quite like some of the ceramics.



I have one large display cabinet with approximately 8-900 bottles and about 400 1940-50s bottles still in boxes. I also have around 60 or so full size Jim Beam decanters and am especially keen on the New Zealand editions.



I poke around in liquor shops and second hand stores when I get the opportunity but as you can imagine, living in a rural community there isn't that many options. (I picked up one of the rarest NZ bottles in a junk shop in Opotiki many years ago - Editor) I also poke around on the TradeMe web site from time to time when I get keen.



I am always happy to talk to any collector or show them around Opotiki, our rural community in the sunny eastern Bay of Plenty.

A WORD OR TWO ABOUT THE EDITOR

I'll always remember the first time I met David Smith. (And it's definitely "David" not "Dave". Apparently, I'm the only person who can get away with calling him that.) It was at a garage sale (remember them before Ebay and TradeMe?) in 1982, when I was a mere stripling, and he had just beaten me to a number of miniature bottles on offer; for the first time but definitely not the last. David looked very much the way he looks today (I'll leave that for you to decide whether that's a compliment or an insult) but he was accompanied by an absolutely gorgeous and vivacious woman. I remember thinking "you lucky b....!"

After we introduced ourselves, I found out that the young lady was his wife, Jackie, and David was a member of the Port Nicolson Miniature Bottle Club. I had been collecting since I had been a student at University and had taken advantage of work trips overseas to accumulate even more, so I was definitely interested.

The next thing I know I'm attending a meeting of the Club and the rest as they say is history. (And you can read more of that in David's article on that very subject). While members have come and gone (mainly gone, unfortunately), David has been the glue that has held the Club together.

At this point in drafting this article, dear reader, I realized that I risked turning it into a somewhat premature obituary, and some hard facts might be useful. While not necessarily essential, they generally add something to a biography. So, off I headed to the Smiths for an in-depth interview.

David hails from Manchester, home of a couple of quite good football teams and lots of cotton mills, before the Third World and synthetics blunted their competitive edge. I have never been there, but from all accounts the local Council has gentrified it into something interesting and lively. A bit like Wellington, really, but without the scenery, about 10 Degrees Centigrade colder, and about 10 times the population.

David is a qualified plant and machinery valuer, and emigrated to New Zealand in February 1978, with Jackie, his Manchurian accent (Mancunian Colin, Ken Chin's ancestors may have had that accent but not mine - editor) a completely irrational and abiding taste for (ugh) black pudding (blood sausage to you Americans), and the (still) lily white legs of a stereotypical Pom (Limey to you Americans). He had spent close to a year in Australia first, helping to set up a plant valuation joint venture operation with a Wellington company that was to become a large national & international real estate company. David was the first full-time and the first professionally trained plant & machinery valuer in New Zealand.

Jackie and David set up house in Pukerua Bay; a pleasant coastal village about a 20 minutes drive north of Wellington. In this part of the world, it was well-known at that time as being an enclave of Englishmen (and women) huddled together for mutual protection against the corrosive, less civilized influences of us colonials. They had a large garden and built a substantial outdoor entertainment area which featured David's famous barbecue (which eventually met an embarrassingly fiery end). David specialized in cooking bacon butties; which were delicious but very bad for your health. Jackie was a fantastic and enthusiastic cook who was an incredible hostess. I will always remember her garlic bread. She was a real perfectionist and would practice her recipes on David before dishing them up to her lucky guests. Poor fellow!



David also started collecting miniatures in 1978. There was a very plain bar in his new house and to give it a bit of interest, he put in a shelf on the back wall and bought a few bottles. By 1980 their numbers had slowly grown to 80. His collection then more than doubled after his secretary mentioned an auction



in Wellington and he bought 89 more (including the 3 shown). He caught the bug and from that time on has been a serious collector. (Actually, I used to attend those auctions and some ratbag with a loud, funny accent kept outbidding me.)

He now has 9,400 bottles (all painstakingly catalogued and photographed) which are split between his bar and bottle room. Much to my surprise, David reckons that he has only the third largest collection in New Zealand with Erica Mulder's and Robin Mellish's being larger. He specialises in micro-minis – he thinks he has the world's largest collection of these, New Zealand bottles, personalised Jim Beams, ceramic and fancy glass. He also has

an interesting collection of "go-withs" (bottle openers, lighters and the like) incorporating or imitating miniature bottles. He assured me that he hadn't spent that much on building up his collection (not that I believed him), having acquired a goodly number through swaps, and purchases at the shows in the States and through Ebay. Of course, a large number of overseas trips, both personally and professionally, to more than a score of countries has also helped him to source bottles. He enjoys visiting America and reckons he's been to Las Vegas about 10 times as well as attending at least a dozen miniature bottle shows in St Louis and California.



My wife, Dianne, and I became very close friends with David and Jackie over the years. This relationship was undoubtedly fostered by the very social monthly Club meetings in member's homes around the Wellington region and then by the AGMs at the Opies' farm in Patea. These AGMs were memorable for the amount of food involved (and a little bit of alcohol). We always had a spit roast of lamb or a small pig and David would always do his barbecued corn – messy but worth it. The Smiths were compulsive organisers and went to great lengths to get everybody involved in fun social events. Mostly they succeeded, but I'll always remember the "Car Rally from Hell" which led to some interesting conversations between the increasingly tetchy, knackered and bewildered Ryders and the "Liqueur Tasting Competition" which put everybody to sleep (blame Dianne Opie for the latter not me - editor).

Jackie loved life and she was the life and soul of every party. The two of them were well-matched and inseparable and it was a real shock to us all when she contracted cancer and eventually succumbed to it in 1998. She fought the disease in the same way she approached life; with positivity, courage and determination, but it was gut-wrenching to see her fade away. David asked me to deliver the eulogy at her funeral because he thought I could do it without losing control but he was wrong. It was one of the hardest things I have ever had to do.

Not surprisingly, David took Jackie's passing very hard. After a little while, he sold off much of his massive wine collection and took off for 12 months, touring around the States in a mobile home about the size of most houses. He maintained touch with his friends back home through a stream of extremely

interesting and detailed bulletins. He took the opportunity to meet many of our American members on his travels and he's always appreciated that their hospitality and generosity helped get him through a very tough time.



David met Rosie in 2002 through that very modern medium, a dating site on the Internet. He rescued her and her cats, from Tokorua (a somewhat rough mill town). Rosie is English, like David, and has a grownup family back in the old country. She is a collector in her own right, collecting frogs. (Figures!) They got married in Las Vegas in 2008. Rosie has been good for David; having a similar but quiet strength of character and, fortunately, a somewhat less boisterous sense of humour. David also picked another good cook.



David retired in 2011. Knowing David, he won't be sitting around wondering how to fill his time. He's a keen gardener and surprisingly capable Do-it-Yourselfer. He enjoys baking bread; although I reckon he cheats because, unlike me, he uses ready-mixes then modifies them. Of course, there's still the travel; back to the UK for family and everywhere else for bottles and exploring, particularly North America, which he loves.

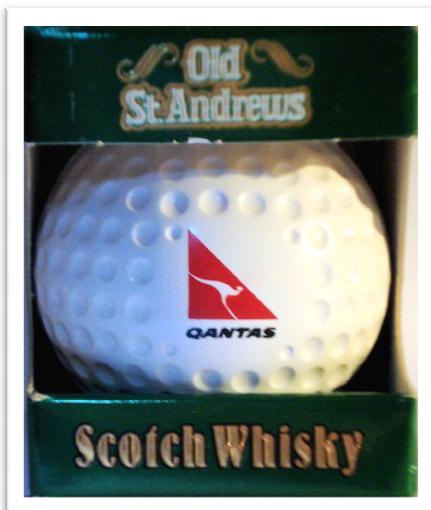
And there are the miniature bottles – his main interest. He estimates he spends at least two hours a day on these; principally adding to Miniature Bottle Library, editing the Newsletter and trying to get slackers like me to contribute articles.

There you go, that's a potted biography of my friend and the driving force behind the Club. He has always thrown himself into everything he does with energy and a determination to make things happen, and I can't see him slowing down as he approaches his golden years.

Thanks, David. Your Kiwi mate *Colin Ryder*

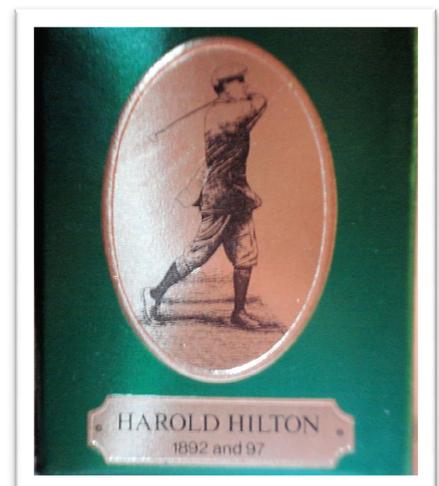
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QANTAS GOLF BALL



I bought this Old St. Andrews golf ball several years ago through an Ebay auction in Scotland. I was fascinated with the Qantas Airlines logo on the ball and have never seen another one like it. The reverse has the Old St. Andrews Scotch Whisky logo in a circle with a lion holding a golf club in the centre. An added bonus was the Harold Hilton picture on the back of the box along with his name and the years he won the Old St. Andrews championships. I consider this is a unique addition to my collection. (Is there a full series of 36 of these with different golfers? - editor)

Judy Fink



NEDERLANDSE MENSEN (DUTCH PEOPLE)

A collector in the US, Claire VandenOever, recently sent me photos of a Dutch Boy & Girl that I had not seen before. This was for inclusion in MBL but it got me thinking - always dangerous - so here is the result.



We will start with two couples from J. C. Boldoot, the first of which are the bottles that inspired this article.



Does anyone know how old these are? Although painted very differently they are clearly from the same moulds.

One of the largest maker of miniatures from The Netherlands is Rynbende. We showed you the plain white version of the first couple in miNiZ99. This version is more common but still not an easy bottle to obtain. Harder still is the Policeman



We start the next page with the Rynbende Milk Boy and Milk Maid. It is rare to find this pair complete with buckets as these just lift off.



If this looks like a Nassau Royale policeman it is because this is also a policeman from the West Indies. This Policeman is from Claeryn and is the only ceramic they have made as far as I am aware. Bols also made an identical bottle (see below).



Can anyone confirm (or otherwise) that the bottle on the right is a miniature? I think that it is but it could be a back-bar piece or a larger bottle. This is the only lady I know about from DeKuyper.

The gnome from Herman Jansen is certainly a bottle but, again, I am not 100% sure it is a miniature. Any information would be appreciated. A great bottle though whether a miniature or not and whether you think a gnome can be a Dutch person or not!



The girl with duck and Loving Couple both have the Oud Hollandsche label, which is the trademark of Perlstein. They seem to make bottles and crocks under their own name and ceramics and blown glass under the Oud Hollandsche name.

The couple on the right are from Valk. I first heard of this company when I came across, and bought, a Windmill in Ashburton many years ago. I found another Valk Windmill less than a month later, also





on the South Island, and it was different. These two are the only Valk windmills shown on MBL.

Elst & Bueno have used a number of the Herengracht and Kaizergracht Canal House bottles from Royal Goedewaagen but this Boy and Girl pair are the only other ceramics that I know of.

Wanders made the set of five Ladies from various Dutch provinces. These are similar to some of the Ladies from Bols (see below) and I suspect are from the same moulds then painted differently. There are two sizes of the Bols Ladies and I am fairly sure that these are the same size as the 1 oz. Bols bottles. From left to right they

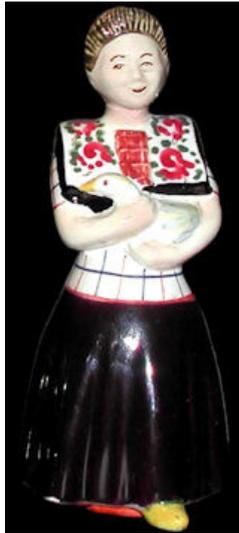
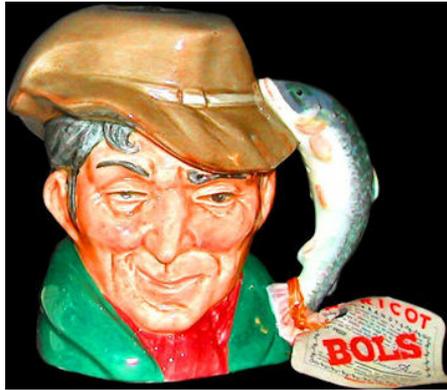
represent: Scheveningen, Spakenburg, Volendam, West Friesland & Zeeland.



Now for the big one, Bols. They have made lots of ceramic bottles, including at least 40 people bottles if you count variations. I will start with three of the most sort after Bols bottles. I have had these since the late 80's and they are some of my favourite bottles. John Bull (UK), Mariane (France) and Uncle Sam (USA) were all made in 1961.



We start the next page with another set of thee bottles. This time three filled Toby Jugs. These are also difficult to find and difficult to search for on Ebay as all three have been made as standard Toby Jugs. They represent Falstaff, a Fisherman and Rip van Winkle. Yes, I know these are not Dutch but Bols is.



On the previous page we have the Bols Provincial Ladies. These come in two sizes. The larger, 3 oz. bottles were made in 1955. These bottles are really a bit big to be called miniatures but at 3 oz. they do qualify. The much smaller, 1 oz. version of these was produced in 1958. The first row shows Scheveningen (small), Spakenburg (small), Spakenburg (large - note that the foot is smaller) and Volendam (large). The second row shows Volendam (small), West Friesland (large), West Friesland (small) and Zeeland (small). The last row shows Zeeland (large), then a special Spakenburg (small) made for KLM. This latter bottle would be the rarest of these ladies and one of the rarest KLM bottles. Finally we have the Milk Maid, another difficult to find Bols mini.



The six ladies above are the Bols Waitresses. These are the same size as the larger Provincial Lady bottles but I do not know what quantity they contain. Again, they are in traditional provincial Dutch costumes.



It's about time we had some guys. The four above are again the same size as the large Provincial Ladies. There appears to be lots of painting variation, you will note that the first three are very similar in shape. I don't know the correct name of these but have always referred to them as Men with Bottles. The Bahamian Policemman is the same as the one from Claeryn (see above). The final bottle above is the French Policeman. Again, I am not 100% sure that this is a mini.

Finally for Bols we have a couple and Sinterklaas (Santa Claus or St. Nicholas). I know nothing about the couple but the Sinterklaas bottle is highly sort after - anyone got a spare?



The lady above and the three bottles on the left are all certainly minis and all are Dutch but I do not know the makers. The middle bottle on the left is the only Dutch glass person that I know of.



Finally we go back to Rynbende for the raffia wrapped Snowman, Chimney Sweep & Sailor. The first two are very common, the Sailor a little less so. Dat is alles!

David Smith

OLDER RARER WHISKIES #2



On the left a Bell's Special Reserve Old Scotch Whisky. A faded label dating from the 1930s

On the right, again a Bell's Special Reserve Old Scotch Whisky, also the 30's. This particularly fine old Scotch Whisky is the produce of some of the most noted stills in Scotland. After being distilled it was stored in duty-free warehouses, where it has been lying during past years, and is now thoroughly matured. Consumers will recognise that it is light and delicate, while possessing the true characteristic Highland flavour (unquote).



NOTE THE CAPSULE ON THIS BOTTLE SHOULD BE INTACT.



On the left are 2 more of the older Bell's Special Reserve. It was in 1925 that "Afore ye go" was registered as the official company slogan. During the First World War, the Bell family would have a few cases of Bell's Extra Special Old Scotch Whisky sent down to the docks to be distributed among the troops going off to the Western Front with the idea that they should have a wee dram,... "Afore ye go."



To the right is Beneagles Extra Special 70% proof with a cork top.



To the left is Ben Aros blended by Speyburn Glenlivet Distillery of Glasgow. It was imported and bottled by S.S.Pierce Co of Boston USA. 86.8 proof 1.6oz.

To the right two bottles of Benmore selected Scotch Whisky. Identical labels and bottles. The only difference are the caps. Benmore distillery was Dallas Dhu of Forres Scotland. Dates from the 1950's.



Gary Carvey

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**

THERE IS (AT LEAST ONE) IN EVERY CLUB!!!

Every club seems to have one (and sometimes more). I'm sure everyone in the New Zealand club knows who it is. But you may not know who it is in the Northwest Mini Bottle Club. Who am I talking about? That collector that by sheer numbers puts everyone else's collection to shame. You have a nice size collection and your non-collecting friends are amazed that you have 100/1000/5000 bottles but then there is the collector that even impresses you. In our club we have Vivian Betteridge. She has been collecting for over 50 years. If you ask her how many bottles she has she will say I don't know about 10,000 (which is the same number she would have told you 20 years ago). Although I don't have an accurate count, I can tell you that I would put that number at over 25,000. (Based on knowing what my 4500 bottle collection looks like). In her house she has 4 rooms dedicated to her bottles and there are also a bunch of figurals in the basement bar room. Vivian comes to every meeting and when she picks out new bottles from our raffle she amuses us by saying "I don't have this one". How she could know which bottles she has in that massive collection is beyond me. Her daughter jokes "She might not remember what she had for breakfast this morning but she can tell you if she has a specific bottle." And the collection grows as she adds between 10 and 15 bottles a month from the club raffles and bottles family members find for her. She has never specialized in any particular type of bottle or Liquor, "If I like it I want it" has been her motto. Enjoy these pictures I took a few years ago this is a very small portion of what she has.



Ron Gabbard

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 Gianduaia.



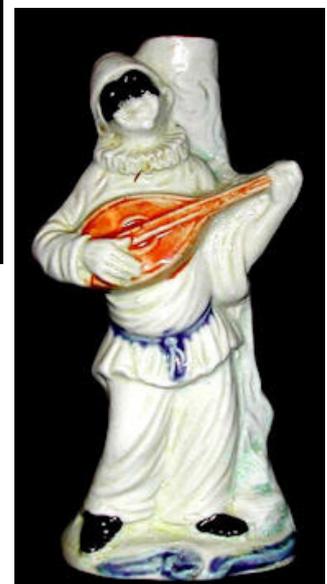
These same characters feature on bottles by other companies.



On the right we have Balanzone and Gianduaia. 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

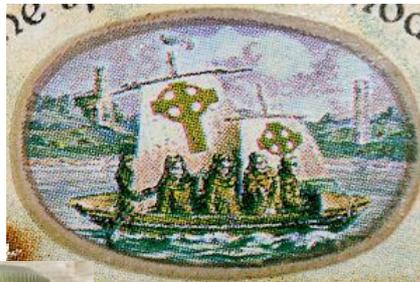
Erica Mulder



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

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

NON-KIWI KIWIS

Kiwifruit come from China and were originally called Chinese Gooseberries but NZ scientists developed them from the small hard wild varieties into the much more edible fruit we know today. The marketing guys changed the name to Kiwifruit and they were so successful that the rest of the world, even the Chinese, now call them Kiwifruit or simply Kiwis. Watch out for new red (taste's great), hairless and grape size varieties, the latter two with edible skins.

Having claimed them it often comes as a surprise to New Zealanders to see Kiwifruit products made in other countries. The Germans especially seem to like Kiwifruit liqueurs, read on.....

Punch Kiwi is from Bernard Broquère, Bordeaux, France. It is 24% and in a 4cl plastic bottle. Kiwi Kiss is a 50ml Schnapps from Winona Wines. I think that this is from the US.



The next five bottles are from Spain. Batida Kiwi is from Campeny, a prolific producer of minis. This is a 40cc bottle but I cannot read the proof. Kiwi Wonder is another Campeny bottle. Unfortunately I cannot read the quantity or proof. Teichenne Schnapps Kiwi is another 40cc bottle, this one at 20%. Teichenne also made Kiwi Liqueur in another 40cc bottle.



No proof on the next one as it is 'Sin Alcohol.' This may sound like stronger alcohol but is in fact Spanish for without alcohol. A smaller producer, Matipe, is the maker. The quantity is not on the front label.



The well known French company, Marie Brizard made the next two bottles. The bottle that simply says Kiwi is a Kiwi liqueur at 25% in a 5cl bottle. The Kiwi Strawberry liqueur is in the same size bottle and is most likely to be the same proof as Marie Brizard made a large series of these liqueurs, all at 25%.

Now for four from Holland, all from Bols - I think.

The first three are Kiwi Wonder and all are 40ml or 0.04 litre bottles and all at at 20%. I think that Kibowli liqueur is also from Bols but cannot read the maker's name on the bottle. This is also a 0.04 litre bottle at 20%.



On the left we have liqueure Kiwi Fruit from Cesarini of San Marino. For those of you who do not know where this is, it is a tiny (only 61km²) republic on the top of a mountain completely surrounded by Italy. Quite a number of minis have been made in San Marino, including some lovely clip top bottles by Fantasy and ceramics by Beradi. See <http://www.minibottlelibrary.com/mbl/alpha/index-c.html#47>

The final straight bottles I have to show you are all from Germany. I will start with two more clip-top bottles. The first 'wiggle' bottle contains liqueur Kiwi and is part of a set of at least 6 but I have been unable to make out the maker on



any of them. These wobble bottles are 40ml. The blue bottle is from Nannerl and says Glüh-würmchen Vodka-Kiwi liqueur, 15%, 40ml.



I showed you the first of the flask bottles a year ago.

Kiwi Tropic liqueur is 0.02 litre, 15% and is part of a set of 32. Paloma Sweet Kiwi is from Wingold of Hamburg. It is 20% and comes in a 40ml bottle. Miss Kiwi is another 20% liqueur in a 0.04 litre bottle. Wonschalburger made it.

The first two round bottles were made by Daverkausen. Both contain Kiwiwo at 25%, 0.04 litre. Tawi-Tawi is a kiwi-banana liqueur from Franz Sünner. This is



an 18% liqueur in a 0.04 litre bottle.



Kiwisala is 40ml, 20% from Vetter. Two versions are shown with the second stating Kiwi-Frucht-Tropic. Finally we have Kiwi-Kiwi from Tisserand, yet another 0.04 litre, 20% bottle.



The first three above are violins and the second three cellos. Why? Glad you asked. Whilst working on Miniature Bottle Library Harland Johnson sent me a stack of photos. He had called the smaller 40ml bottles violins and the larger 75ml bottles cellos. This struck me as so logical that I have used the convention throughout MBL. The figurals are from Nannerl of Austria until I tell you differently.

The three violins are all kiwi liqueurs, the first two at 15% and the third at 22.5%. The first two cellos are kiwi cocktails but I cannot read the proof on either. I think that the third cello is another kiwi liqueur. Sticking with musical instruments we have the trumpet. This is a Vodka-Kiwi liqueur, 40ml, 15%.



On the right are three more Kiwi liqueurs.

The first two are of course light bulbs, the third is a mushroom. If you look closely you will see it is a light bulb with a hat on. All are 40ml with the first at

15% and the other two at 17%.



We start this page with a locomotive containing 40ml Kiwi liqueur at 15% followed by two 20ml bottles of Kiwi liqueur, a boot and a mug. Sorry but I don't know the proof on either of these. Nannerl make two different locomotives but I have not found the larger one with Kiwi liqueur in it - yet!

The leprechaun is another 40ml Kiwi liqueur, this time at 20%. The two lanterns may look the same but the first, and older, one is 100ml and the other 40ml. I don't know about the first but the second is at 15%.



Now for bottles from three other makers. The trumpet is from Lua of



Croatia. It contains 40ml of Vodka-Kiwi at 20%. The rabbit is from Spain's Campeny. Kiwi is all it says.



A bottle? You decide. This Vladivar Kiwi & Orage Vodka Sachet contains



25ml at 20% and is from the UK.

David Smith

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 Wormword 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

I'M A CLUB NEWBIE

I cannot offer any great words of wisdom or pass on any benefits of my experience in the world of mini collecting, as I have neither. I can only contribute as to what it's like to be a brand new member as of January 2013.

Whilst I have been collecting these lovely little bottles for 25-30 years, I only have, I now realise, a tiny collection of 200 or so. I find them very hard to source from my neck of the woods (now Townsville, Queensland). Or probably more correctly, I did not really know how to go about acquiring them, other than purchasing the odd few on overseas trips, or from seeing them on sale in bottle shops here and there, where they seem to stock a general range and different ones don't appear very often. And never having come across another collector, I had no one with whom I could share my hobby or share information.

My fascination for these baby size bottles started when, as an early teen, we visited a great aunt who had a collection. It was stashed away in a cupboard but she showed it to me. The first one that really caught my eye was a barrel (of what I now assume was whisky) and I am still trying to find that barrel or one like it! Anyhow I was instantly hooked, but being too young to go to a bottle store and buy alcohol, and coming from a non-drinking family, I had no hope! It was not until, in my very late teens, I went on my first overseas trip to the UK, the land of my birth, that I bought my very first precious mini bottles. The shop had so many it was very hard to pick just a few to take with me.



I would get frustrated at times over the years because the only times I could seem to get additions to my collection was either from overseas holidays, which do not happen as often as I would like (one day I will win lotto). Or when some brand decided to launch a new product and they often do a miniature to go with it - this is the only time I seem to find a different mini that I haven't already got in the local bottle stores - but

love and dedication for his collection wouldn't allow him to leave. He had a very nice display case that held all his collectibles including the fragile crystal collection. Instead of running for his life he chose to hold on to the display case to make sure it didn't tumble over. He was staying to guard his stuff (including the coins and stamps he loved so much) and no one was going to change his mind. This was the level of dedication he had for his collectibles. He looked fear in the face and decided he would rather die in his apartment than leave his precious things behind. My family looks back on that story and laughs. Beyond the smile the story brings to my face, it also reminds me of grandpa's dedication to his hobbies. A dedication most mini bottle collectors reading this article can relate to.

In 1980 my parents and I immigrated to the US. We left most of our family and started afresh in a place that offered lots of promises of better opportunities. I recall thinking every once in a while about my grandpa's collection. Wondering if he would ever be able to come and live with us and bring the collection along? Maybe I could inherit the collection? Maybe I could become a great stamp collector or coin collector that grandpa would be proud of? Those were nice dreams. The reality turned out quite different.

It took 10 years before my grandparents could come over and start living their lives in America. Before emigrating to join us, grandpa's great collection got smaller and smaller. He was selling off his treasured coins and stamps while still living in Moldova. Not because he needed the money, nor because he no longer loved the hobby, it turned out Grandpa was not allowed to take his beloved collection with him once he left Moldova. The Russian government wasn't going to allow him to bring the stamps and coins. His only choice was to sell them all and make some money. Can you imagine having to part with your collection? To move to a new place and not be able to bring some of the things you cherish the most with you? Certainly, the opportunity to come here and live with us again meant more to him than his hobby. Still, I think I can understand how hard it must have been for him to part with items so close to his heart.

Grandpa finally came to the US in 1990. He still collected but the passion wasn't quite there. How do you start collecting again in a new land with limited money at the age of 66? When grandpa came to the US I was a teenager. There was a language barrier between us, he didn't speak English and my Russian was terrible. So while the collecting bug had already hit me with my love for hockey cards (among other things) I didn't take the time to talk with grandpa about our shared love of collecting. Asking him about why he loved to collect wasn't on my mind. I was too busy with other interests. I look back on that period of my life and regret that I didn't take the time to ask. I really would have loved to pick his brain about the stamps and coins and ask him why he loved them so much. It was an opportunity I didn't take advantage of. Looking back I would have loved to find out what we shared in common that made us both collectors?

Grandpa lived long enough to see me start collecting mini bottles. I think he had some questions of his own for me that he probably never chose to ask. Like why the hell I chose mini bottles as my hobby passion? I recall the look on his face when he saw my small cabinet filled with minis. It was a look of confusion. We may have had a language barrier between us but I understood the look. He was a serious collector and to collect mini bottles of alcohol probably didn't feel quite serious enough to him. Like so many other treasured memories of grandpa this funny and awkward moment is very much a treasured memory for me.

So what made me a collector? It's hard to say for sure. Maybe I shouldn't try to figure it out so much, except to say that it's in the genes.

Seva Trakhtman

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.

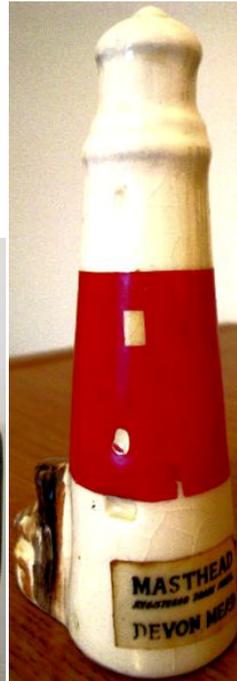


We start with two gems, neither of which were shown on Miniature Bottle Library. The first bottle is the head of the Katzenjammer Kid, a comic character from the early 1900's. This was made for Bishop & Babcock in 1906. At 85mm (3.35 inch) high it truly is a mini. We were surprised to see this go for 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 Bonkouich

COLLECTING IS GREAT

My name is Brian Osment and I'm a senior citizen. I live in a wee country area of New Zealand called Five Rivers and yes there are five rivers here and they all flow into the famous Oreti River which then flows on to Invercargill, 100 km away to the south. I've been a Trade Me (for our overseas members, a NZ site similar to Ebay - editor) fan for quite some time and used to buy Jim Beam decanters for my collection. I am the President of the Hokonui Jim Beam club here in Southland.

Looking at Trade Me one day I saw my first ceramic mini bottle for sale and decided to put a bid in on it. I'm pleased to say I won the auction and this was the first mini in my collection. As more minis appeared for sale on Trade Me I bid on them and as I was about the only one who seemed to be interested at the time my collection grew. The bulk of the minis I bought were all put on the site by one of the members of the New Zealand Miniature Bottle Club Colin Todd. As more sales were made we started to e-mail one another and so a good friendship developed. After a while Colin came down south to visit his sister and was kind enough to make the effort and call in and meet my wife and I in person and deliver more minis I had bought from him. He told me all about the club and I couldn't wait to join.



The pictures are all of minis bought from Colin. They are: Ski Country Fox & Butterfly, Ski Country River Otter, Lionstone Safari Series Ostrich Family, Lionstone British Rough Collie, Wild Turkey Series 1 #3, Ski Country Great Horned Owl, Ski Country Flycatcher, Ski Country Red Shouldered Hawk, Ski Country Golden Pheasant, Ski Country Stone Sheep, Ski Country Raccoon, Ski Country Brown Trout and Cyrus Noble Moose & Calf.



This was just a few years ago and my interest has been only in ceramic bottles as all of them are so beautiful, more like ornaments than just containers that once contained spirits. Once the club magazine arrived I could not believe there were so many bottles out there and realised that this is a great hobby. To learn that some members had thousands of bottles was hard to comprehend but having since seen other members



collections I now do believe. It's a pity that so few ceramic bottles are issued today and many of these never see the coast of NZ so unless one has the cash to order them off shore the only hope of owning these is if anyone gets around to selling their collection.



Colin calls on us when in the area and its always a pleasure when he calls in and he always has some news about the minis that he has bought or has for sale. Having a friend like him in the club has been a real boon to me as I'm sure my collection certainly wouldn't consist of as many minis as it now does. There is always the chance of finding a few odd minis in second hand or antique shops but it means a lot of visits to many shops before you find them.



The plain spirit bottles don't interest me at all but the ceramics are little works of art and I'm sure that if I had known about them before I started collecting Jim Beam decanters my collection would be all ceramic mini decanters. There seems to be a lot more interest in the minis that are placed on Trade Me for sale now,



which is good to see as it means more interest from more people in this great hobby and usually better prices for the sellers.



The NZMBC is very lucky having office bearers who are doing such a great service to us collectors. The magazine is something they can be very proud of and I'm sure we all look forward to receiving each copy. I'm sure the club will prosper and wish it all the very best and thank it for giving a senior citizen a new hobby to take up and enjoy.



Brian Osment

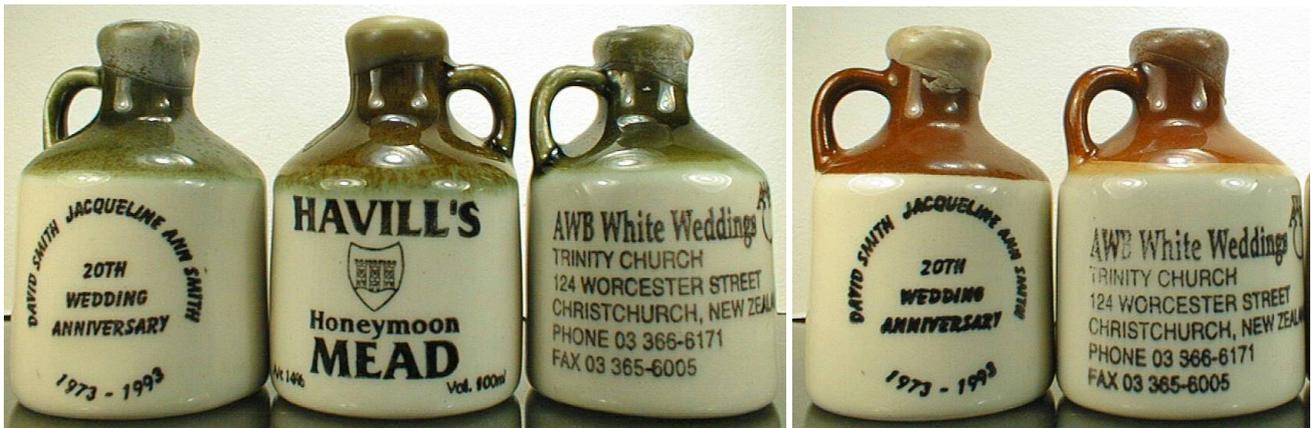
HAVILL'S MEAD

Since this is a New Zealand publication, I thought I would bring out some nice looking miniature ceramic **Havill's Authentic Mead** jugs produced between 1993 to 1995. I love these type bottles because they tell a story about times gone by.

Except for the 20th Anniversary commemoration of David and Jacqueline's wedding, I know nothing about whom or what these represent, but they are very intriguing. Most of these were made specifically for Individuals, Reunions, Groups, Conventions, or Services by Companies.

These miniature bottles definitely tell a story that covers a 3 year period that took place almost 20 years ago. I was thinking that it would be interesting for someone in New Zealand to revisit these groups and organizations to see where they are today. (Trinity Church was badly damaged in the 2010 earthquake, see <http://www.savecanterburyheritage.org.nz/former-trinity-congregational-church> - editor)

I often wondered how many more of these jugs are still out there? There are a lot more shown on our web site and I now know that all that were made are shown there, apart from a few 'specials' made as 'trophy's' for a Lawn Bowls tournament.



Jim Crawford

OLDER RARER WHISKIES #3



On the left is Brownings Special S.W. which was produced by The Finsbury Distillery Co Ltd of London. The company called Matthew Clark and sons was formed in 1810 (Although the label states 1740). It was known for most of its history as a City of London wine and spirit importer. The company had three different addresses around London before moving to this Finsbury address in 1972.



On the right is Black Barrel from H. Stenham from Elstree Hertfordshire who had quite a number of blended brands several decades ago. Although not trading for some years now.



To the left we see John Buccleugh's Tartan Vat 70% proof 30 U.P. Halewood International was founded in 1978 originally called Halewood Vintners. The assets of John Buccleugh of Kirkby were acquired, along with Lamb and Watt of Warrington and Hall and Bramley of Aintree were added to their list. The bottle is of dark brown with a cork top.



On the right is a fine example of Buchanan's Old Original choicest S.W from Scotia distillery Argyleshire. The bottle has a cork top. I have seen a newspaper advert with this same label from December 1928.



Now for three from Bulloch Lade and Co Ltd. The bottle on the left has a concaved back and a seam down the sides with a slightly curved front. The bottle also has bubbles in the glass. This bottle has a cork top. The bottom label states "The same high pre-war excellence maintained in every bottle"



The bottles on the right: These two are identical apart from the one on the left is the late King George VI with the crest. The bottle on the right is her Majesty the Queen. 70% proof.

Gary Carvey

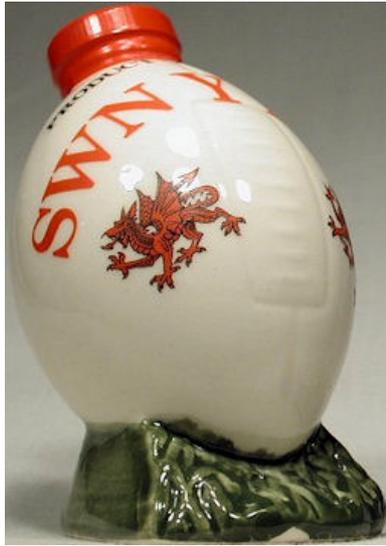
RUGBY RUGBY RUGBY

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.

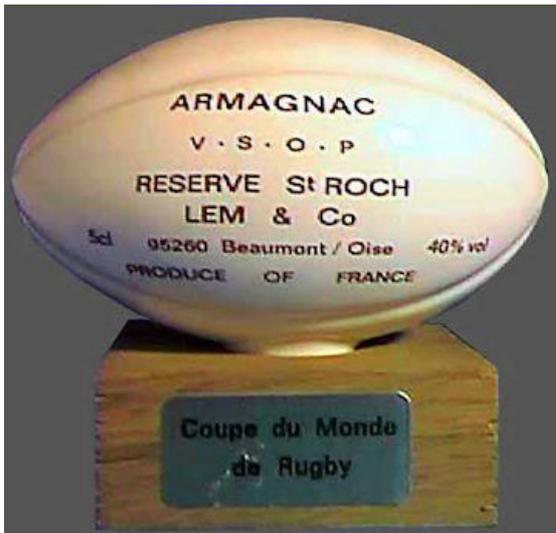


The next four photos are actual miniature ceramic rugby balls in my collection. These are all Welsh containing "Welsh Whisky". There are at least 7 variations of this bottle. Note that the first is another larger bottle (50cl - 500ml)





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



Русские водки

Russian Vodka

One of the fun things about buying/selling and trading bottles around the world is you find some really cool bottles. I really enjoy finding Russian vodkas partially due to the interesting and sometimes colorful labels but what I really like is seeing the labels that I can't read (and have no idea what they say). They are always popular with non collector friends whose bottle knowledge is limited to what they see in the local liquor stores.

Ron Gabbard



CERAMICS REPORT

I'd like to start off this time with an apology for my absence from the last newsletter. A combination of illness and family commitments meant there was no time left for me to devote to our hobby.

I presume everyone will be aware by now of the problems we collectors are having with firstly eBay kicking us into touch from 14th February and latterly, and more critically in my opinion, from 14th January the UK Royal Mail service prohibiting us from sending alcohol through the post to any overseas address. I also have it on good authority that this absurd action on their part will be extended in May to include all UK addresses too. Personally, as my collecting interest involves buying, selling and trading with collecting friends around the world, I feel that there is little pleasure to be gained from collecting miniatures as things now stand. I will persevere for a while, as collecting miniature bottles and ceramics has been a major part of my life for the best part of forty years, but unless things improve I don't know what the future holds. A lot of eBay sellers are considering transferring over to another on-line auction site, but this is still in its infancy so there are no guarantees there. We are also looking into using private courier services, but again there are no guarantees, and they are proving to be a whole lot more expensive. Hopefully these problems can be ironed out, but only time will tell. Either way, the hobby as I see it is going to die at worst, or become far more costly and cumbersome at best. I'll keep you posted.

For this article, I'll give you the lowdown on Peter Thomson (Perth) Ltd., the company that was responsible for the fabulous series of ceramic birds of prey that were first launched back in the early 1970's.

Photo 1 shows us where it all began in the 19th century. The enamel signs on the wall advertise Thomson's tea and Thomson's whisky, two of the big sellers in the licensed grocer's shop that Alexander Thomson owned at 255 Old High Street in Perth. The advertisement would have dated from the early 1890's, and the premises in the picture are now home to the shop called "Once a Tree".

After Alexander died in 1893, the business was inherited by his three sons, Alexander junior, Charles and Peter, who carried on as a partnership. In 1906 they bought the licensed grocer's shop of John Paton at 202 High Street in Perth, and installed Peter as manager. Two years later, on 28th October 1908, he bought himself out of the partnership and set up on his own. He later moved four doors down to larger premises at 186/190 High Street. Today this property houses the charity "Children First", having also seen life as a branch of the Halifax Building Society for over 30 years from 1971.



Peter's business continued to grow and he opened branches in Craigie, Scone and Glasgow Road, Perth. He also operated a wholesale warehouse in Alexandra Street for the distribution of Scotch

whisky, wines and spirits. This building is now a laundrette, but a painted white sign for their imported PT Port is still visible on an outside wall of the building.

In 1922, he utilised his knowledge of blending processes to launch the Beneagles brand, taking his inspiration from the Gleneagles Hotel and golfing complex, which opened around the same time.

Peter died in 1939, and after the war the business was taken on by David K. Thomson, grandson of Alexander senior, and his nephew Michael. During his lifetime, David also served with distinction as Lord Provost of Perth. They subsequently sold off their retail outlets to allow them to concentrate on the wholesale side of the business.



At around this time the company launched a new venture when they started marketing miniature ceramics filled with their Beneagles Scotch whisky. They produced a wide variety of different designs that proved to be extremely popular. These ranged from the Loch Ness monster to the haggis, skean dhu, curling stone, bear, squirrel, hip flask etc. I have added a pictorial inventory of what I have in my own collection, and I'd naturally be delighted to hear from anyone who can add to this list.

In 1960 they transferred their premises to King Edward Street, and in 1972 they moved again, this time to Crieff Road on the outskirts of Perth. The business was eventually sold to the Reo Stakis Organisation in 1981, who then sold on the Beneagles brand in 1983 to Waverly Vintners Ltd., a subsidiary of Scottish and Newcastle, before eventually closing down in the 1990's. The ceramics range is now owned by Whyte and Mackay, and Beneagles Scotch whisky is blended and bottled by Invergordon Distillers.



Photo 2 is one of several variations to the curling stone (I have 5 in my collection) that was produced containing Beneagles Scotch whisky. Of course other companies produced their own version of this, but to the best of my knowledge Peter Thomson (Perth) Ltd. was first. Personally, I have one from Gordon & MacPhail containing Glen Calder Scotch whisky, and another from the Cumbrae Supply Company containing Thistle Scotch whisky. The one I have shown here is a limited edition that was produced to commemorate the Air Canada Silver Broom world curling championship, which was held in Perth, Scotland, in 1975.

Photo 3 is a Skean Dhu, that most of you will know is the dress dagger that is worn in the stocking as part of a Scotsman's highland regalia. In the 1990's Lindisfarne produced something similar containing their Glen Fiona Scotch whisky.





Photo 4 is a golf ball decanter in a presentation box. Again, several other companies, including Aidees and Old St. Andrews, have produced similar items.

Photo 5 is a ceramic whisky barrel with a moulded thistle design to the front. I have two variations of this one, plus a further two that were produced by Rutherford's, but in their case without the thistles.

Photo 6 shows us four different hip flask styles of ceramic decanters. The emblem on each of them

depicts the trout, pike, red deer and pheasant. All four contain 50ml of Beneagles Scotch whisky at 70°proof. They come in a variety of colours, including blue, brown and two shades of green, and are labelled either the Sportsman's Flask or the Fisherman's Flask. Additionally, some of them state that they were modelled by A. Hallam in 1969, and that they were produced by the Beswick Pottery.



Photo 7 is another flask that comes in a variety of colours, including the green and brown examples that I have in my collection. The eagle emblem is prominent on the front face of this one.



Photo 8 gives us a selection of three different ceramics in the form of paperweights. They depict Edinburgh Castle, Burns Cottage and Tower Bridge, London. As with the hip flasks, these ones come in the same selection of colours.



Photo 9 shows us arguably some of Peter Thomson's most popular ceramics; these are, of course, his wide range of miniature animal decanters. Included here are the eagle, bear, squirrel, otter, seal, badger, Loch Ness monster, and the rarest beast of all, the haggis! There are variations out there of most of them, which would have been determined in the main by when the individual pieces were produced, by which modeller and at which pottery they were fired. They were modelled by A. Hallam, D. Lyttleton or J. G. Tongue between 1969 and 1981, and were produced at either Beswick or Wade Pottery. The most recent models also show the contents as Whyte and Mackay Scotch whisky as against the Beneagles brand



that we would already have been familiar with.

And then we come to the set of 9 larger birds, including five birds of prey and four owls. Due to import restrictions of miniatures into America, they produced these fabulous pieces each of which contain 200ml of Beneagles or Whyte & Mackay Scotch Whisky. These ones in particular have

become prized acquisitions for collectors the world over.

Photo 10 (on the right) is the Osprey. This is not a mini as it contains 37.5cl of Beneagles Scotch Whisky at 70° proof. This bird was modeled by D. Lyttleton in 1977 and was produced by Beswick.



Photo 11 (on the far left) is the Kestrel. It contains 200ml of Beneagles Scotch Whisky at 40% vol. This bird was modeled by J.G. Tongue and was also produced at Beswick Pottery. This particular one was actually a limited edition produced for Kestrel Marine Ltd. of Dundee, a company that had its premises in the Stannergate area of the city. Interestingly their base was an old hangar that had previously been

home to flying boats from world war one till the end of world war two. This particular seaplane base was one of a number that were dotted along Scotland's east coast. They were used predominantly for reconnaissance and anti-submarine duties during the war. Kestrel Marine Ltd. operated from there till the hangars were demolished in 1987.

Photo 12 is the Merlin. It contains 200ml of Whyte & Mackay Scotch Whisky at 40% vol. This bird was modeled by John G. Tongue in 1979 and was produced by Royal Doulton.

Photo 13 (on the right) is the Buzzard. It also contains 200ml of Whyte & Mackay Scotch Whisky at 40%vol. It was modeled by John G. Tongue in 1979 and produced by Royal Doulton.





Photo 14 is the Peregrine Falcon. Once more, it contains 200ml of Whyte & Mackay Scotch Whisky at 40%vol. and modeled by John G. Tongue in 1979. It too was produced by Royal Doulton.

Photo 15 is the Snowy Owl. It contains 200ml of Whyte & Mackay Scotch Whisky at 40%vol. This bird was modeled by John G. Tongue in 1984 and was produced by Royal Doulton.

Photo 16 is the Tawny Owl. It too contains 200ml of Whyte & Mackay Scotch Whisky at 40% vol. It was also modeled by John G. Tongue in 1984 and produced by Royal Doulton.

Photo 17 is the Short-eared Owl. Once more it contains 200ml of Beneagles Scotch Whisky at 40%vol. It was modeled in the John Beswick Studio of Royal Doulton by John G. Tongue in 1984.



Photo 18 is the Barn Owl. As before, it contains 200ml of Whyte & Mackay Scotch Whisky at 40%vol. It was modeled by John G. Tongue in 1984 and was produced by Royal Doulton.

And finally we come to the daddy (or daddies) of them all. This is of course the pair of 750ml golden eagles. Photo 19 shows us both of them in all their glory. The one to the left contains Whyte and Mackay Scotch whisky, while the other one contains Beneagles. One was modelled by J.G. Tongue in 1984 and was produced by Royal Doulton, while the other was modelled by J.G.Tongue in 1969 and was produced at the Beswick pottery.

That's your lot till next time, when I'll hopefully have a series of photos showing the proposed new issues from Rutherford's for 2013, and I should also have a clearer idea by then of the impact

on the hobby of the unwanted and unnecessary interference by eBay and Royal Mail, so till then.....

Dave Allen

SOMETIMES YOU JUST NEED TO ADAPT

My name is Rob Colvin and I live in Winnipeg, Canada. I have been collecting miniatures for about 25 years. I started back in the 80s when airlines still gave out minis with reckless abandon. I would order 3, drink one and put two in my carry-on. I added a few here and there when I travelled - - I thought a few hundred was a lot.

Although a bit too cold at times (Winnipeg is the coldest city of over 500,000 population in the world) Canada is a great place to live. However as a collector of miniatures it is a challenge. All liquor stores throughout most of the country are operated by the government and they do not have any desire to carry miniatures. If I bought every mini available in Winnipeg for the last 20 years I would have about twenty.

As luck would have it in 2003 I bought my first miniatures on EBay from Jim Baiers in St Joseph, Michigan. I was going to be travelling through St Joseph on a business trip and asked if I could pick my purchases up on my way through - - he said yes - - I picked them up. While there I saw Jim's collection and was amazed at the number of bottles that existed. It was that day that I got hooked on expanding my small collection into something more.

To make a long story short, I joined the Midwest Miniature Collectors Club, started meeting other collectors and today I have about 25,000 miniatures. Over the years since I have been amazed by the level of support and the generosity of many of the collectors I have met and who have helped me build my collection.

Unfortunately however I still had a problem - - - you can't trade if you have nothing to trade.



It was then I decided that I would buy full collections as I found them. I would keep the ones I wanted and trade or sell the rest. It was a great decision and I would encourage others who are starting out to try it. Because of this I also became a general collector rather than a specialist. I have a bit of everything and I have come to love the variety.

I was never a big fan of gin until I purchased a collection about a year ago - - - the collection had crocks, pewter, very old tubes. Some of the collection can be seen on the previous page.

In one of the other collections I bought I was lucky enough to get an assortment of Russian nesting dolls containing either Rodnik or Goroff vodka (pictures attached). Once again I instantly fell in love with them. I can't wait until I find some more additions.

In the end having a lot of bottles is impressive but the real thrill is finding something new. Whether a person finds new minis at a store, by buying collections or by trading it is a great hobby. Take advantage of the relationships - - - I have seldom come across a group of people more willing to help each other out than those I have met while searching for new bottles to add to my collection.



Rob Colvin

Bourbon galore but not to drink

By RANDALL WALKER

Ian Butcher likes a bourbon, but he's managed to resist the temptation to crack any of the 2000-odd bottles he has spread around his Paraparaumu home.

They are part of a 5000-strong collection of miniature alcohol bottles collected over the past 30 or so years, and knocking the top off them makes them practically worthless.

Only the rarest bottles are worth collecting if opened, he says.

Not that they're worth much anyway. Replacing the collection at retail price would cost more than their collectable value, he says.

Collectors are a dying breed he says, hence the market is "diminishing".

"It's like so many other things nowadays, people are too busy doing other things, or watching television."

Mr Butcher said his three children have not caught the collecting bug, though they have decided who will get what from his collection when he "pops his clogs".

He says there is still good value in rare miniatures, but only overseas.

Now 69, Mr Butcher was a late-comer to collecting miniatures. His ex-grandfather-in-law, Wellington writer Pat Lawlor, gave him a collection of about 40 miniatures when he was in his early 30s.

Since getting serious and attending international shows, he has become friends with an American collector, Jim Crawford, who

sends over boxes of miniatures for his birthdays and at Christmas.

Along with a large collection of standard miniatures, Mr Butcher has an incredible array of weird and wonderful examples.

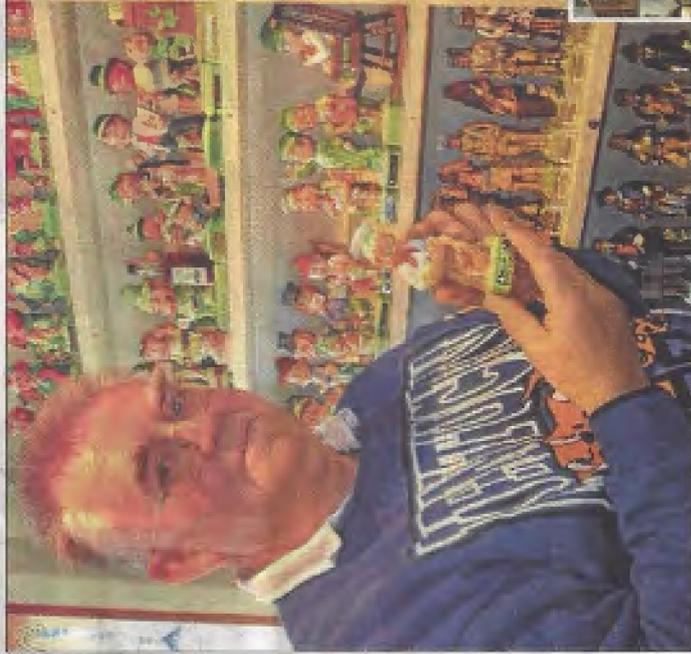
Shelves on either side of his home's entranceway are stacked with ceramic figurine bottles. A states of America and a "Mr Lucky" collection, both one shy of completion, along with birds, firemen, miners, clowns, and American Indians.

In another room, there are footballs, chess pieces, golf clubs and trundlers, a bust of Scottish poet Robert Burns, cigars, a beer tap handle and collections of animals, among shelves and shelves of standard miniature bottles.

A collection of three, a bowling ball, soccer ball and cricket ball, were one of his better finds.

"Believe it or not I actually picked those up in Dunedin in a second-hand shop and no-one else in New Zealand's got them, no-one else has even seen a cricket ball [miniature] before."

His oldest bottles date back to the 1920s, with lead tops.



The former accountant has detailed his collection on computer.

Without a wife, he says his collection has been able to take over more of his house than it might otherwise, but even so he reckons it's at its limit.

There is the odd bottle he still wants to get his hands on, to complete several series, including four of an 85-strong ceramic collection of "Dutch houses" given to passengers on the KLM airline.

Mr Butcher is a member of the Wellington-based New Zealand Miniature Bottle Club, the only club of its kind in Australasia.

See minisnz.com.

Leprechaun series: Ian Butcher has all but one of

Hoffman's Mr Lucky series of miniature porcelain decanters.

Bottles and bottles: Some of the 2000 bourbons in his collection.



BOTTLES FROM A - Z (PART 1)

There are many ways of categorising bottles and one way is alphabetically. I'm not sure how easy this would be to do in some other alphabets, such as Cyrillic, Arabic or Chinese, but we need just 26 for the Roman alphabet. This is the first of three articles where I will attempt, with a little cheating, to list bottles A-Z by Country, then Company, then Contents. Part 1 is by Country.



A is for Albania. This once very secretive Balkan country is bordered by Montenegro and Kosovo to the north, Macedonia to the east and Greece to the south. It lies east across the Adriatic Sea from Italy. Konjak Ekstra is Albanian brandy.

B is for Belize. Formerly British Honduras, Belize is located on the north eastern coast of Central America and is bordered to the north by Mexico, to the south and west by Guatemala and to the east by the Caribbean Sea. 1 Barrel is Rum from Travellers Liqueurs Ltd.

C is for Ceylon. Known as Sri Lanka since 1972, this island nation lies south of India and is finally peaceful after decades of civil war. Once known as The Pearl of the Indian Ocean, I can say from experience that this truly is a beautiful island. Mendis Arrack is local firewater.

D is for Danzig. Now known as Gdansk and situated in Poland, Danzig was a mini state between WWI & WWII. Danzig Goldwasser or Goldwater is now made in many countries but this bottle by Julius von Götzen is the genuine article.

E is for Estonia. Estonia is in northern Europe and is one of the three Baltic states (Latvia & Lithuania being the others). It lies across the Baltic Sea from Sweden and has Latvia to the south and Russia to the east. Vana Tallinn liqueur is named after the capital (Tallinn not Vana!).

F is for Fiji. Alas a now somewhat troubled South Pacific island group to the north of New Zealand. I first went there on business in 1979 and continued to do so for 15 years. Very friendly people, pity about the government. The Fiji Rum barrel is from a former client of mine, South Pacific Distilleries.

G is for Ghana. It is situated in West Africa and is bordered by Ivory Coast to the west, Burkina Faso to the north, Togo to the east, and the Gulf of Guinea to the south. Ghana is one of the largest cocoa producers in the world so Takai Cocoa-Coffee Liqueur was the natural choice of bottle to show you.

H is for Haiti. Or what is left of it following the devastating earthquake a couple of years ago that killed over 200,000 people. Haiti is in the Caribbean and shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic. Barbancourt is by far the largest Rum/Rhum producer in Haiti.



I is for India. The second most populous country on earth. We are just beginning to see a serious number of minis coming out of India and I believe this will become a flood in the next decade. The Serenade Cashew Fenny Cello is from Madame Rosa Distillery of Goa, a former Portuguese colony.

J is for Jordan. This middle eastern country borders Saudi Arabia to the south and east, Iraq to the north-east, Syria to the north and Israel to the west. Given the location it is surprisingly peaceful and is one of the few in the area that makes minis. Haddad makes a lot of those, including this Arak.

K is for Kyrgyzstan. This Central Asian r former Soviet Republic is bordered by Kazakhstan to the north, Uzbekistan to the west, Tajikistan to the southwest and China to the east. Kyz Kuumai is presumably a liqueur (nice of them to translate the Cyrillic for us).

L is for Laos. Loas is in South East Asia, bordered by Burma and China to the northwest, Vietnam to the east, Cambodia to the south, and Thailand to the west. I could have shown you miniatures containing snakes but Star Vodka is probably less well known.



M is for Malta. Usually thought of as a single island, Malta is an archipelago situated in the centre of the Mediterranean, south of Sicily, east of Tunisia and north of Libya. Tamakari Maltese Liqueur shows the George Cross, awarded to the people of Malta for their heroic efforts in WWII.

N is for New Zealand. Where else? Situated in the South West Pacific, the little island of Australia lies to the west and Antarctica to the south. Timaru Bitter is one of the rarest known NZ bottles and is about 75ml, rather than the more common 15ml beers.

O is for Okinawa. Yes, I'm cheating, courtesy of Jim Crawford's site. Okinawa is the main island of another archipelago, this time in the Western Pacific, south of the main islands of Japan, of which it is part. I haven't a clue as to what the bottle contains or who made it.

P is for the Philippines. The Philippines are another archipelago, comprising 7,107 islands set in South East Asia. Originally ruled by Spain (they are named after King Philip II) they passed into US hands and became independent in 1946. Tanduay is probably the best known Philippine distillery.

Q is for Queue. Please queue here and wait for Qatar to make some miniatures!

R is for Romania. This former communist country is now an EU member. Romania is bordered by Hungary and Serbia to the west, Ukraine and Moldova to the northeast and east, and Bulgaria to the south. Romania makes lots of fruit brandies but shown is Goldessa Vodka.

S is for Suriname. This South American country, formerly Dutch Guiana, is on the Atlantic coast and is bordered by French Guiana to the east, Guyana to the west and Brazil to the south. Given the location it is hardly surprising that they make rum.

T is for Thailand. This popular tourist country is bordered to the north by Burma and Laos, to the east by Laos and Cambodia, to the south by Malaysia. Written Thai has its own script, related to the Khmer script of Cambodia. It is impenetrable for the rest of us; don't ask what is in the bottle!



U is for Ukraine. Ukraine became an independent country when the Soviet Union dissolved in 1991. It borders the Russian Federation, Belarus, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Moldova. The Nemiroff bottle shown is one of a very large set of differently flavoured vodkas.

V is for Vietnam. Some interesting bottles are beginning to come from this South East Asian country. It is bordered by China to the north, Laos to the northwest and Cambodia to the southwest. Tham Tam T is from Ha Thanh. I think it is a spirit of some sort.

W is for Wales. I'm cheating again as Wales is a semi-independent part of the United Kingdom, not an independent country. The Prince of Wales Welsh Malt Whisky jug shown is from Welsh Distillers. The story of Welsh whisky is complicated and explained on Miniature Bottle Library.

X is for nothing. Unfortunately no country begins with an X, although China does have three autonomous/administrative regions starting with X. Unfortunately I don't read Chinese so I do not know if I have photos of bottles from any of these regions.





Y is for Yugoslavia. Also spelt beginning with a J, as can be seen on the Lozovca Rakija bottle shown. Yugoslavia no longer exists as, following a series of civil wars in the 1990's, it has broken up into Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Slovenia, Kosovo and Serbia & Montenegro.

Z is for Zimbabwe. This once prosperous country in South East Africa, bordered by South Africa, Botswana, Zambia and Mozambique, is now a shambles. It was formerly called Southern Rhodesia and the Gilbert's jug dates from that period. Note

that it also has a Central African Airways sticker.

Part two of this series will be by Company. There are plenty of those so I should not have to cheat.

David Smith

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AUSTRIAN WHISKY



You don't often hear about whisky from Austria so when Holm Hars sent me these photos for inclusion in Miniature Bottle Library I thought that I would share them with you.

All four whiskies were made at the Marillenhof Distillery, using the small still shown on the left, and matured in Austrian oak casks.

HOW DOES YOUR COLLECTION STACK UP?

A relatively recent development in bottle design was the enlargement of the “kick-up” in the bottle base to allow bottles to be stacked. Here are the “stackables” in my collection. If you know of more, please let me know.

The largest stack, on the left, is from Drink Italia of Italy, five 5cl liqueurs (lemon, mandarin, apple, strawberry, roses) and one grappa. All the bottles are the same design, which means they can be stacked in any order, as can the three “cubes” at the lower left. – three 50ml fruit brandies (palinkas) from Rakoczi-Delikat of Budapest.

In the other stacks only the lower bottles can be rearranged: from Spain, Le Diable Absinthes (50%, 70%, 80%) bottled by Campeny; from Ireland Clontarf Irish Whiskies including a Reserve and Single Malt and Boru Irish Vodkas (plain, orange, and lime), and finally, just to the right, Bramble Scotch Whisky Liqueur and Damson Gin (a plum liqueur) from Scott’s Cheer of England.

Harland Johnson (miniliq@gmail.com)



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

THE MINI BOTTLE GALLERY



Several years ago we had a brief article on the opening of The Miniature Bottle Gallery in Oslo, Norway. I came across these photos and thought I would share them with you.







The club has a DVD taken by Sandy Jones shortly after the museum opened. We are happy to send a copy to any member on request.

Visiting the gallery is hellishly expensive (apart from the cost of travelling to Norway) but with a collection of over 45,000 bottles I

would unfortunately have to go if in Oslo.

David Smith



NEDERLANDSE MENSEN



Just when I thought I had the lot (refer to earlier article) I came across a mini I had forgotten about. The KLM St Nicholas or Santa Claus is distinctly different from the Bols version and is a very hard bottle to obtain. Note that these are traditional Santa clauses, as opposed to the now more popular version invented by the Coca Cola marketing department.

WHAT'S YOUR **E X I T** 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 Dobyngs 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)

A a B b 1 C c D d 2 E e F f 3 G g H h 4 I i J j S H h L l G M m D n ? O o P p Q q R r S s T t U u V v W w X x Y y Z z

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** . . .



A Completely unpaid (except by perhaps a later favor or two) Advertisement for the

MINI BOTTLE BLAST

What's the Mini Bottle Blast you ask?

It is a **FREE** monthly e-mail newsletter that Contains pictures of new Mini bottles sent in By collectors like yourself.



Here are some of the bottles you would have found in recent issues.

Already getting the Blast?

Great keep sending in those pictures.

Want to start getting the Blast?

Send your e-mail to Ron Gabbard at

gabspa@msn.com



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.
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Overseas Membership with miNiZ emailed to you is US\$10.
Overseas 3 year Membership with miNiZ emailed to you is US\$25.
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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)