

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW ZEALAND MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



THIS & THAT & COVER BOTTLE

This time I'm going to start with a grouch and then get onto much better things. Whilst doing research for MBL I came across most issues of miNiZ on-line but not on an authorised site. This included some reasonably up-to-date issues that are not yet available for downloading from the club. At any time we do not have miNiZ from the last two years on-line so as to maintain our membership. Someone who gets the electronic issue of miNiZ has passed on copies to the Russian prick who has put these on line without asking. See http://en.calameo.com/accounts/867525 As well as miNiZ there are also all scanned copies of Miniature Bottle Collector and Bob Snyder's miniature books, none of which were authorised. We are happy to have older copies of miNiZ on-line and David Spaid is happy to have the MBC's on-line but in both cases with the provision of link-backs to the club and David. This is so that David can sell his considerable stock of physical magazines and so that collectors will join the club to get the latest miNiZ. The Russian prick who has put these online clearly knows he is doing the wrong thing as none of the Russian Club's newsletters are on the site. If you passed on the copies of miNiZ to this prick CEASE AND DESIST NOW! The only people authorised to put these publications on-line are myself and Ron Gabbard, who has authority to put them on the NWMBC and MMBC sites (but not miNiZ for the last two years). Enough said.

Our cover bottle dates from the 1920's or 30's. It is only the second One Special Scotch made for New Zealand that has turned up (there must be more!). It was found in a second hand shop by Ken Chin. The picture on the bottles is the 1911 version of the New Zealand coat of arms, which was used until 1956. Te Aroha is a small town in the Waikato with a population approaching 4000. Te Aroha literally translates from Māori as The Love, although a better translation is The Place of Love.



I'm a fan of Port, although I now drink it rarely since I was found to be diabetic. However I am not such a fan that I would pay €7000 for a 50ml bottle! That's over NZ\$11,500. This is for sale on a Portuguese web site, where all the bottles are over-priced, although not to this extent. If you are tempted they do offer free postage world-wide.

Despite Ebay now being a problem (disabled not dead - see a bottle David Spaid bought on French Ebay in his article and Peter's As Seen on Ebay) there are still plenty of places on-line where you can buy bottles. Not all are as expensive as the Portuguese site. And, hey, what is wrong with good old fashioned swapping? Remember that we have want and sale ads on the web site FREE for members. We also have a free member profile - are you on there? If not contact me for details.

You do not often see bottles from Muslim

countries as, to say the least, they are, officially, not keen on alcohol. The two on the right were sent to me for MBL by Holm Hars, a German collector. Both are from Haddad Distillery of Jordan. Aspen Gold is a whisky and Arak Bekfia is, of course, an arak. See David Spaid's article for great bottle from Turkey - not a Muslim country but the population are predominantly Muslim. There are quite a number of minis from Turkey so I will look at doing an article on them at a future date.

Talking of David Spaid, his company, Chiisai Bin, issued a lot of great ceramic bottles over the years. I forgot to show you these Pickwick characters in the last miNiZ. They were picked





There were two on one table and two on another, both reasonably priced. I am now only missing two of this set (also shown). Something is nagging at the back of my mind telling me that I have seen these same bottles filled by another company, in England I think. Only these six are on MBL so does anyone know of another bottler? Also, does anyone have the two below for sale to complete my set?

up by me at the MMBC Show in April.

Erica Mulder and Peter Bonkovich have always been good at ferreting out bottles and they have found some real beauties this time at Kaiwaka Liquor Centre. These blown glass (and one moulded glass, the eagle) bottles are from MAP Company of Armenia. They are quite expensive, about \$40 each for the first four, but it certainly makes a change to be able to buy great bottles like this in NZ. All contain Samvel 5* Armenian brandy, the first four (Peacock, Ram [or Aries], Eagle & Elephant) have 100ml and the stallion has an over mini size 350ml.













There does seem to be a bit of a trend starting. After years of nothing other than straight bottles, and not a lot of those, we are beginning to get some figurals sold here. We started with the Kah 'Day of the Dead' Tequila Skulls, followed by the Flashbang Grenade (also Teguila) on the cover of miNiZ91 and now these. Long may it continue.

DAVID'S BOTTLES

I have some unusual bottles from eleven different counties for you this time. Roughly speaking we will start in the south and work our way north.

The two Tequila SolAzul (silver and reposado) are sample bottles used at a launch party for the large

SolAzul bottles several years ago. Staying with North America, Covington Gourmet Vodka is made in the USA from sweep potatoes. It is

CYPRUS

WHISKY

only sold in North Carolina.



and Son of Cyprus, who these bottles in different

are from Arak el Rif of Lebanon. They are expensive at about US\$50 for the four but how often do you see bottles from Lebanon?

Moving just a little further north, the Mutlu minaret bottle is a lovely old bottle from

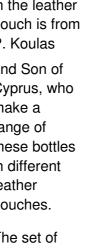
Turkey. You don't see bottles like this on sale any more.

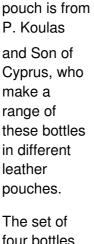
Our next two countries were once one. On the left is Double Cross vodka. This is a sample bottle from Slovakia. Unfortunately the photo does not do it justice. Another sample is the Babicka wormwood vodka from the Czech

Republic.

France produces more minis than most countries and produces some of the nicest bottles out there. We have one nice liqueur, Pavan and a whiskey in a very ordinary bottle. However, the Uberach Single Malt Whisky is certainly unusual



















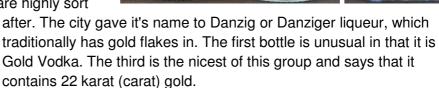


- when did you last see a French single malt? It is from the Alsace region and I bought it on French Ebay. On the far right we have a new vodka from Belarus, Platinka or Platinum in English.

We can go to Poland or Scotland next but we will head for Poland as it is nearer and finish up on the Polish coast where is is a hop accross the North Sea to Scotland.

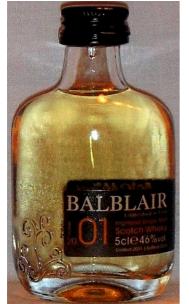


The two Ambrosja (Ambrosia) vodkas are a wheaten and a pepper. Some bottles look larger than they really are and these are only 50ml. The next three bottles all refer to Danzig, the German name for the current port city of Gdansk. Bottles from the Free City of Danzig (1919-1939) are highly sort



Balblair 2001 actually came out at the end of 2012. It is, of course, a Scotch. A single malt Scotch in fact.

And that completes our south to north journey. I hope that you have enjoyed these bottles. Some you will find, other are nearly impossible but the chase is what collecting is all about.













David Spaid



There have been some great bottles coming out of Peru in recent years. We have shown many in previous issues of miNiZ but the ones below have been issued in 2013.



The six cars above were made by Destilerias Unidas and each contains 50ml of Royal Highness Scotch at 40°. There are now almost 50 cars in this series, plus a few sample variants that have got into circulation. The above are: 2005 Aston Martin V12 Vantage, 2007 London Taxi TX-4, 1955 VW Karmann Ghia, 2005 Toyota FJ Cruiser, 2001 New Mini Cooper & 1993 Lexus SC-430. There is also a 1976 VW Scirocco but I do not have a photo of this yet.

Number 20 in the cars series was a 1962 Volkswagen Classic Bus. The same mould has been used to make a set of four hippie busses and there are also 2 VW hippie cars. So far I only have a picture of one of them. Again, these contain Royal Highness Scotch.



I don't know about you but I have never associated Delft and windmills with Peru! The four crocks on the left are from Sotelo. Each contains Vieja Ciudad Pisco, I assume 50ml.

I'm sure that most of you will remember miNiZ88 (the X rated edition) in which we showed a number of minis of copulating couples from Artesanal. Artesanal have surprised us all again with the next two sets, which depict the Nativity. Not the original you understand but two alternative nativities from Peru. The first is a set of 9 pieces. The first picture (of course) depicts the baby Jesus and parents Mary &

Joseph. Next are the three wise men, the good shepherd and a donkey & cow. This set is based on the traditional dress of the Lake Titicaca area. The Indian Nativity comprises 5 minis, the obvious three plus two South American cats, an Otorongo and a Jaguar (somehow I doubt that the Christian religion would have existed if these two had been there!). The sixth piece shown was a sample only (5 made) and depicts a guinea pig. This set is based on the traditional dress of the Shipibo Indians.



There are also plenty of new straights coming out of Peru. The two sets of beautifully etched and gold printed bottles above both contain 50ml Pisco. The first is from Abolengo (part of Sotelo) and the second is from Fundo Real.

Most of the above, and many more, are available from Fernando Saettone at http://miniaturasdelperu.com/main.html There was only one set of the Indian Nativity available as I write this and none of the Andean Nativity but it would be worth asking Fernando if he can get a set for you if you want one



We start this page with a pair of jugs from Scotland, via Peru. My thanks to member Seva Trakhtman for sending this photo. They each contain 5cl @ 40% of Glenfiddich 12 year old single malt scotch. They are a limited edition of 75 filled by Rutherfod's for Club de Coleccionistas Peruanos de Miniaturas de Licor.



Whilst on the subject of Seva, as you can see, he recently got married and, of course, he had a bottle made. I detect the hand of Jim Crawford in getting these made as they are from the Bar Cupid Distillery Co., Cincinnati, Ohio!



David Smith

ONE FOR THE AGES

As you all know the United States had this nasty thing called prohibition which shut down alcohol production. This break has created a time line with the older bottles being called pre pros. A large number have survived but many just as glass bottles. The labelled ones range from absolutely crappy to near mint. Another thing is that prior to the Pure Food Act of 1906 the labels were not required to have any information as to content. Anyway, you can occasionally find a bottle which was stuck in the back of grandmum's china closet or some other hidden place. Such a bottle is Eddy's Red Letter Rhode Island Whiskey by The Eddy &

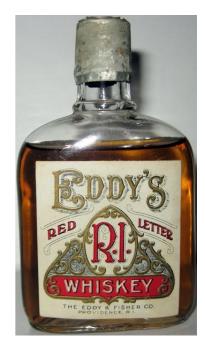
Fisher Co. Providence, R I. I would date

this bottle to about 1900.

Until next time MELO

(New Zealand voted for prohibition too, in 1919, but when the votes of the troops in Europe were counted they tipped the b

in Europe were counted they tipped the balance in the other direction - editor)





Working on MBL I thought that I had found the ultimate in politically incorrect bottles in this old American whiskey from Lionel Distillers. It appears to say Black Jew! Fortunately, before I could add it to the on-line database, I found another copy with the full name of the brand, Black Jewel. If you believe you have found a politically incorrect brand name on a mini bottle send me a photo.

David Smith





These are lighters in name only. Looking at the the actual light portion of the bottle, I would be a bit scared to actually try to use these.

DOUBLE COLLECTION

Sometimes when collecting one thing you find items that can be collected by more than one type of collector. Such is the case with these old mini bottles turned into lighters that I added to my collection. I first got the Old Joe in the lower corner. I always thought it was a cool bottle and the fact it also doubled as a lighter well that was all the better. It was many years later before I found any more of these. I picked up the other 8 when purchasing a collection. I was quite happy to add them to my collection. I have no intention of collecting lighters but if I stumble across any more of these bottle lighters, I might just have to make this collection grow.

Ron Gabbard



CYPRUS - MORE THAN SHERRY (PART 2)

As promised, this time I have some Cyprus spirits for you. We start with Ouzo, the national drink of Greece, from seven different companies.













The first of the Ouzos is an old rip-cap Keo 'extra fine' bottle with the old Cyprus Wine & Spirits company name on. I know of several variations of this. The second bottle is a more modern Keo 'extra fine' ouzo. Crist. Haggipavlu & Sons made the Cyprus Ouzo Extra bottle. Kkoullas made the bottle with the nice coastal scene. The fifth bottle is from Loel. As you can see, the sixth is another 'extra' from Pantelides. The final two are another 'extra fine' this time from Sodap and a 'super extra' from Talias & Thoukis.











Zivania is a type of marc (a distilled product from grape skins and stalks) made only in Cyprus. Much of it is made in small quantities in back-yard stills, known as Kazani. I think that it is reasonable to assume

that the bottles we have here contain Zivania made in more conventional stills, so as

to produce the spirit in volume. The possible exception is the last bottle, which does not show a maker.

Starting on the last page we have Zivania from Loel, Kkoulas, Keo and Etko. On this page we have a nice bottle from Kykkos Monastery and finally the bottle mentioned earlier that does not show a maker on it.





On the left we have two Kokkini, our only examples of Red Zivania. This is made by adding cinnamon, common with the 'back-yard' distillers but relatively rare for the commercial manufacturers. I note that the one on the left says 'sweet,' whereas most Zivania is dry. These are two more bottles from Kykkos Monastery. I know of one variation of the sweet bottle and I am sure that there are many more Zivanias out there.

Talias & Thoukis made the

'super extra' Masticha on the right. Mastcha, otherwise known as Mastika, is a somewhat undefined drink made in several countries in southern eastern Europe. The common thread is that it is flavoured with resin, similar to Retsina wine. It can be either a sweet liqueur or a spirit, similar to Ouzo. Being from Cyprus this one is almost certainly a spirit, although there is no percentage alcohol visible. The spirit goes cloudy white when water or ice is added.

On the far right is an example of a slightly better known spirit, Raki. This one is from Loel but I am sure there are more Rakis made, and bottled in miniature, on Cyprus.









We start the next page with Cypriot examples of much more common spirits, three gins and three rums. The oldest of this group is also the first, Keo Dry Gin. Probably the most modern bottle is the next one, Queen Victoria London type Dry Gin. This bottle is from Haggipavlu. Next is yet another nice bottle from Kykkos Monastery, this time a Dutch style Genevrier gin. Keo rum, with the rip-cap, is our second oldest bottle of the group. Ron Marinero is a pale 'Bacardi' style rum from Loel. The final bottle in the row is Ron Pantelidi rum from Pantelides.

The next six bottles are also common spirits. The first is a brandy from Loel. I had no idea what was in this bottle but a combination of the Greek alphabet on Wikipedia, Google Translate and cut and paste showed that it is Cypriot Brandy (the words across the top). The large four letter diagonal word is LOEL in Greek. Next is the only Cyprus whisky I know of, made by Kkouloas. I doubt that the Scottish Whisky Association is too worried about the competition. We had a few vodkas in the first

article of this series, including the red label one shown from Kykkos Monastery. I have included this again as I now realise that this is the only mini I recall seeing with three alphabets on the label, Latin, Greek and Russian. Mr Brewer appears to be a Cyprus based on-line liquor store with a range of own-brand products. The two Imperial Vodkas were made for them by Kkoullas. The final vodka, Stronganoff, is from Crist. Haggipavlu & Sons. I think that the photo is distorted, not the bottle.











In the final, and shortest, article of this series I will show you the few liqueurs I have been able to find from Cyprus and probably one or two spirits that have not made it into this article or the first 'Cyprus' article in miNiZ101. If you do have any more photos of Cyprus bottles please do send them both for the next article and Miniature Bottle Library (which now has over 55,000 photos).

ROMANIAN BOTTLES

The first three of these bottles were shown in Mini Bottle Blast, a free monthly publication run by member Ron Gabbard (email gabspa@msn.com to subscribe). A few months previously Gabriel, a Romanian collector, had sent me some Romanian bottle photos for MBL so I emailed her to see if she could get me a set. As you can see, the full set comprises six bottles but unfortunately the second three are not filled with drink. Gabriel wanted to do a swap, and buy some extras from my web site, so I went for the full set.



The first bottle contains red wine and depicts Dracula. The character of Dracula was based on a real person, Vlad Tepes, otherwise known as Vlad the Impaler. This is the character in the middle. This bottle also contains red wine. The final bottle with alcohol, in this case white wine, represents a traditional Romanian shepherd.

Next up is the Salt Miner, which contains salt crystals from Praid salt mine in Translivania. The middle bottle is a Romanian peasant. This contains mineral water sand from Transilvania. Our final bottle, the bear, contains salt water from Bear Lake in Transilvania.

AS SEEN ON EBAY #27

Yes, there are still minis for sale on Ebay. Mainly figurals I must admit but there are some nominally empty straights for sale from North America and Ebay still sells straights on the French and some other European Ebay sites. Make sure that you search worldwide.



The first 5 bottles I have to show you should be familiar to you all. They are 5 of the Air New Zealand set of 11 NZ buildings given away in the 1980's. These sold for, in order, US\$27.60, US\$27.90, US\$42.65, US\$56 and US\$100 for Ponsonby Fire Station.

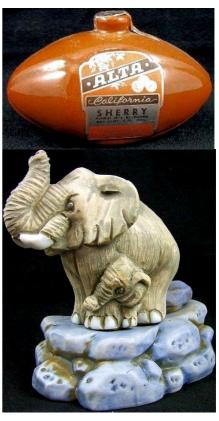
The Alta football is from the 1930's and contains California Sherry - US\$23.40 was a good price for the seller. Next are two very different bottles from Famous Firsts. The Sewing Machine is one of their more common minis and this was reflected in the price, US\$10.51 One of their rarest is the Elephant Mother and Calf caricature. This is part of a set and we have shown you a number of other in miNiZ over the last year. All came from the same seller. US\$41 was a fair price.

Next we have two ceramics from French company, Garnier, although the containers were made by Marchi Ceramics in Italy (see miNiZ100 Special Edition). The Queen of Hearts Card was made in 1971 and is one of a set of 6 (Jack/Queen/King of hearts and clubs) but note that there are actually two









sets, one with a red back and one a blue. It is rare for the seller to tell you which colour back it has but this seller has had the sense to do so (this one is blue). It sold for US\$14.10. The fish is also from a set of six, each one named, this one being a Cichlid. These were made in 1974. I'm sure the seller was very pleased with the sale price of US\$31.99

The green couple were bottles I had never seen before and I could not find out anything about

them. They were not even on Miniature Bottle Library (they are now - editor). There is no maker on these but they do say that they contain Bourbon Whiskey and that the bottles were designed by Eric Olsen in 1968. I would have expected these to have sold for a lot more than US\$22.00











I love football (soccer to you Yanks and many New Zealanders) so here are some great football minis. The set of three Old St. Andrews balls were made for the World Cup in the USA in 1994. Sets of three balls were also made for the world cups in France and Korea/Japan. These three sold for US\$29.90. The Vlahov goal keeper was made for the 1960 Rome Olympics and is one of a set of six depicting different sports. Interestingly fakes were made of these bottles (see MBL). The goalie sold for a huge US\$103.61





Two nice straights to finish with, both said to be empty! Old Farm is a 1935 rye whiskey from Overholt, now part of Beam Inc. US\$31 seemed cheap. The Mitchell's Shamrock Irish Whiskey is a 1937 bottle. A very disappointing US\$20.60 bought it. These bottles both have tax stamps on showing the date but most tax stamps do not show a date. If you can see a tax stamp you may be able to date the bottle using the information on the club web site.

Peter Bonkovich

SAMPLE MINIS

Over the years there have probably been hundreds of different sample ceramic bottles. Some were accepted 'as is' and so are identical to the final mini. Others were modified before going into production and some never got made at all. Many of the latter were featured in MBC (http://www.minisnz.com/mbc.html) and so all we have are black and white photos. I have kept the B&W photos to a minimum in the article but all the samples we know about can be seen on MBL at: http://www.minibottlelibrary.com/mbl/alpha/themes/sample.html

The Hoffman sample Cheerleaders were what got me thinking about this article. Pete Gabbard spotted these for sale on Ebay with the astronomical 'Buy Now' price of US\$20,000, plus, of course, US\$675 postage! These were already shown on MBL but it was a small photo of the whole group so it was good to see some decent photos. This set was on sale at the St. Louis show several years ago (2009?) and from memory the seller wanted US\$1200. These are almost certainly the same six bottles as only two of each were made and the vendor states: "I know where a partial set are of the 4 that do not include the gold topless and regular Dallas Cowboy cheerleaders."









Sticking with sample bottles of people we have quite a number that McCormick never made. Above we have the Chuck Norris 'World Karate Champion' bottle. We start the next page with three Ice Hockey Goal Keepers. Unfortunately we











only have small photos of these. They represent the Boston Bruins, New York Rangers and Toronto Mapleleafs.



There are a number of Elvis samples known, all of which are minor variants to

the production bottles. Above is the Designer Gold sample, which does not have the 'Elvis' oval plate on the front of the production bottle. The Elvis 68 bottle usually has Elvis in black. This gold version was rejected, although a version with a red guitar was later used for "Elvis on Stage."

Actor Larry Hagman made a name for himself in the comedy "I Love Genie" but is best known for his role as J.R. Ewing in the soap Dallas. This bronze version of him was never put into production.

Three well known

names from the American West were also never immortalised in miniature. They are Kit Carson, Davey Crocket and Daniel Boone.









Old Commonwealth is well known for it's Firemen bottles. The two on the left, although samples, seem to have been made in reasonable quantities, although they were never labelled. The bottle on the right and the first on the next page





appear to only have been made in sample quantities.

Sticking with Firefighters we have the Firefighters of Yesteryear from MBC. I'm not surprised that this one did not make it into production as, to me, he looks like a French policeman.

Another sample that I am not surprised did not make it into production was Warren Beatty as an angel from the 1978 film



Heaven Can Wait. Beatty stars in the lead role, playing a football player who, after being killed in a collision accident, is sent back to earth in the body of a millionaire.

I believe that the best 'person' bottle that never made it into production was Uncle Sam from Cyrus Noble. I

am not picturing it here as it was the cover bottle for miNiZ97.

Goto of Japan made the Circus Strongman sample. This is one of nine circus figures, none of which made it into production. MBL shows five of these, all in B&W. If anyone has pictures of any of the other bottles, or colour photos, WE WANT COPIES.







Enough of people, let's have some animals. The first two Garnier Collies above are both samples and the third photo shows the final production bottle.

Ski Country made quite a number of bottles that did not make it into production. Three animals I know about are the Snowgoose, Pandas, Bass and Koala. All but the Koala as shown on the next page as I only have a B&W photo





of the Koala. Only the Snowgoose made it into production, in a slightly different form. The more modern iteration of Ski Country also made a Soaring Eagle sample that is a little different from the production bottles.









Another great proposed bottle from Ski Country was the Toronto Tower. It is obvious why this never went into production as the breakages would have been horrendous.

Now back to McCormick, who made the two apples. I suspect that these did not go into production as they did not fit in with McCormick's other bottles.









The two Circus Circus bottles by MBC are from my own collection. The bottom one is the production bottle, which is truer to the colours that Circus Circus is painted. I believe the sample is the nicer bottle but understand why the changes were made.

As mentioned above, there are more samples shown on MBL but there must be many more still. Pictures Please to: minibottlelibrary@gmail.com

DATE, TIME & PLACE

Sunday 20th 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 11th January 2014, 6.00pm Barbecue, David & Rosie's, 11 Trevor Terrace, Paremata.

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

Friday 14st - Sunday 16rd February 2014 AGM Weekend in Auckland (note change of dates)

Friday Evening – BBQ at Peter Bonkovich's – 44 Sherwood Ave, Te Atatu South (09 834 8881 or 027 214 4648) - BYO Meat & Drinks (Peter & Janet providing salads/deserts)

Saturday Morning & Lunch – Orewa Beach Boulevard Arts Fiesta & Market Day

http://www.eventfinder.co.nz/2014/orewa-beach-boulevard-arts-fiesta-market-day/auckland/orewa

Saturday Afternoon – Visit Colin Todd's to view his Collection, 16 Murano Place, Chatswood **Saturday Dinner** – TBA

Sunday Morning – Visit local market(s) maybe some bottles depends on which markets are operating.

Sunday Lunch BBQ and AGM at Erica Mulder's – 37 Park Road Titirangi (09 817 7499) - BYO Meat & Drinks - and a Salad to be shared

You will get to view Erica's vast collection and multi Miniature Bottle Collections will be for sale which have been acquired by Erica and Peter over the past few months.

We will select the markets for Sunday morning closer to the time based on which ones are operating that weekend. Some of the smaller suburb community hall antique fairs and markets dates have not been announced for 2014. Some usually have miniatures for sale.

If you need accommodation contact Peter for advice: peter bonkovich@actrix.co.nz

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

How about at least one meeting in Christchurch in 2014? Will the southern members consider this and please let me know by Christmas do I can advertise it/them in the next miNiZ.

AFTERWORD

Everybody thought that the 100 page 100th Edition of miNiZ was a great idea but there is a problem - nobody has sent me ANY articles since then (although thanks to David and Peter who sent lots of bottle photos for me to process into articles for them). The 100th Edition was 6 months ago. The articles you see from other members in this miNiZ were sent for the 100th but were held-over. I am almost out of the held-over articles so

I REALLY, REALLY NEED YOUR ARTICLES FOR miNiZ103

Want to see a truly amazing collection? Check out **The Cathedral of Whisky.** This is a Brazilian site displaying the collection of Rubens Didone Neto. http://www.catedraldowhisky.com.br/colecao.html

This is a huge collection of mainly large, and obviously full, whisky bottles both straight and figural. There is a wall of ceramic minis. Forget the building, just imagine the money involved in the bottles.