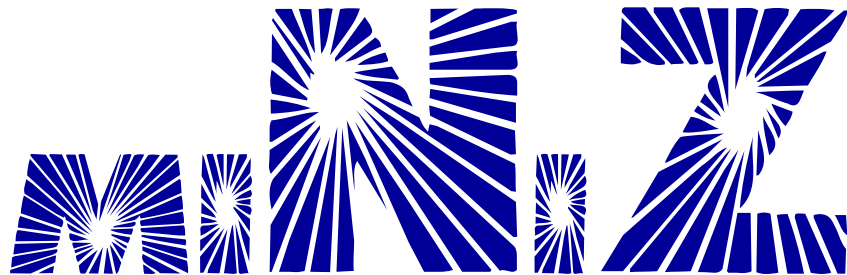
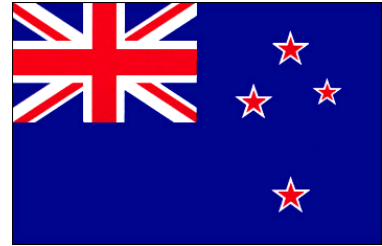


Issue 105

Winter 2014



THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW ZEALAND MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



THIS & THAT

I've not got a lot for you this time. For an explanation of the cover bottles see the article 2014 St. Louis Show.



Having just got over the World Cup the Sochi Winter Olympics seems a long time ago. However, I found this set of six Larsen Ships on a Russian collector's site. They are a limited edition of 50 of each and were made for the Larsen Collectos Club. Check out other Larsen Club limited edition bottles on <http://www.minibottlelibrary.com/mb/alpha/larsen/>

The club continues to 'tick-over' with poorly attended but still lively meetings every two months in Wellington but currently none elsewhere in New Zealand. We continue to maintain membership at about the same level of 60+ and our finances are reasonably healthy. This is due to the switch to delivering miNiZ electronically to more and more members. Remember, we lose money on all paper copies. If you don't need the paper switch to electronic and save yourself some money. The quality is also

better and you can follow links to mentioned web sites directly.

Do you swap/sell/buy bottles overseas? Unfortunately it's getting b____y expensive. Firstly NZ Post did away with so called surface mail (several years ago now), then they progressively made the difference between first class and economy airmail smaller and smaller. Originally it was 40% but for the last couple of years it has only been 10%. Now they have done away with economy airmail completely – and put the price up again on first class airmail. Expensive but not as bad as the UK now. Under 2kg NZ & the UK are comparable, although the UK still has an economy option which is between 55 & 65% of the standard airmail cost. Over 2kg all parcels from the UK now have to go by courier. A 3kg parcel UK to NZ (declared value £50) is NZ\$126.30 as opposed to NZ\$77.30 in the opposite direction (even courier delivery is far cheaper from NZ to the UK – NZ\$95.12). If you are ordering any bottles from the UK keep the parcel below 2kg and ask for economy airmail postage. It is FAR cheaper to send two smaller parcels than one larger one (2 x 2kg = £27.60, 4kg = £76.85). However, remember that, per kg, larger parcels are more economical from NZ to the UK. Although only half the distance, a parcel from NZ to the USA is the same price as to the UK. In the opposite direction it is about 130% of the NZ cost for larger parcel and VERY much more expensive for smaller ones. Confused? Of course you are!

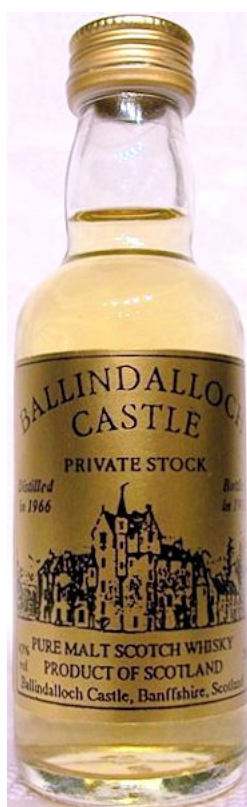


Does anyone know what company made this delightful little mermaid bottle? I came across it (no I did not buy it) three months ago and it is definitely a bottle. For other 'mystery' bottles see Miniature Bottle Library: <http://www.minibottlelibrary.com/mb/alpha/index-a.html#U>

David Smith

SCOTTISH CASTLES

There are many castles in Scotland and many of them are commemorated on bottles. Most of the bottles I have to show you are filled with Scotch, the exceptions being the British Airways Drambuie Books and the Lindisfarne Mead Jugs. This is not meant to be a comprehensive article as there are doubtless lots more Scottish Castle bottles out there and there are certainly a lot more variations of some of the bottles shown.



I am starting with a set, or I should say, parts of two sets, of bottles from Prestonfield House. The ones on the right have the word Edinburgh added at the end of the address.

Ballindalloch Castle is a private bottling for, err, Ballindalloch Castle - funny that!

Blackadder is not just a comedy character and New Zealand rugby player, they are also a major bottler of Scotch. Starting the next page we have three of what I again suspect is a much larger Castle set. Aren't these great bottles?

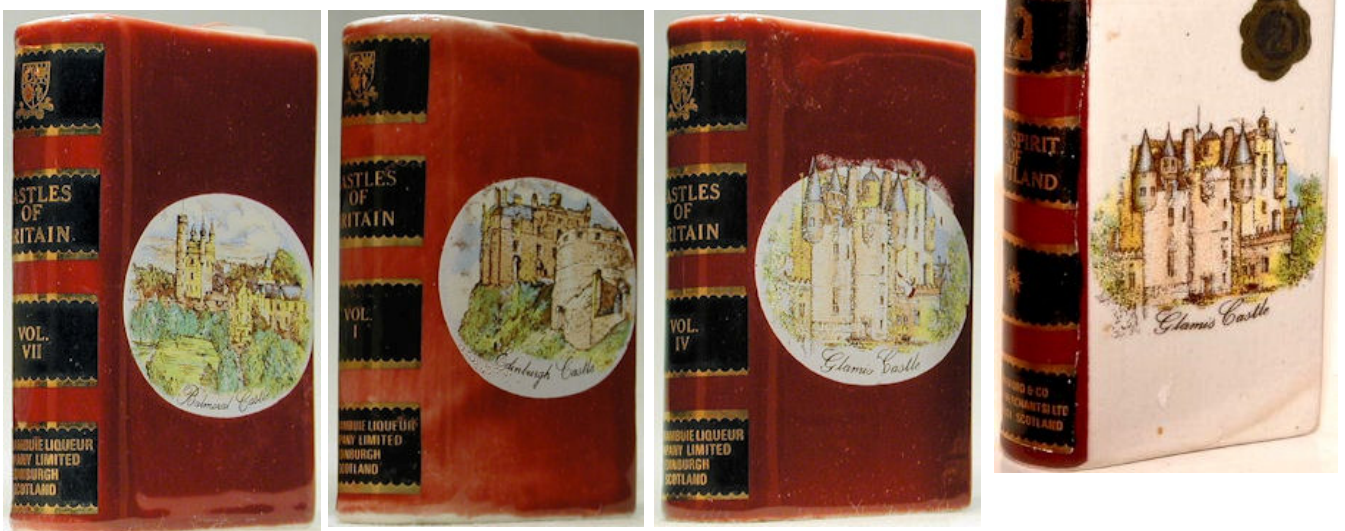


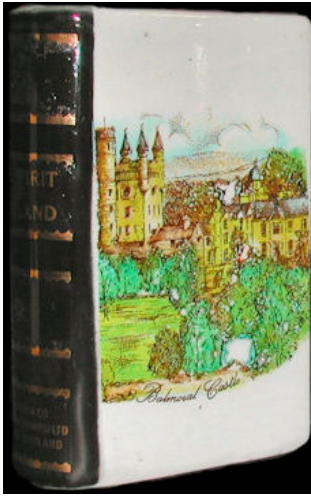


We will stick with Edinburgh Castle for the next three bottles, the first of which is from Edinburgh Scotch Whisky Company. Royal Mile is the main (fancy) shopping area of Edinburgh and the next Edinburgh Castle is from a well known whisky shop of the same name.

On the left is the Edinburgh Rock Whisky bottle, showing the castle on the top. Another great bottle and a twin to the similar South African bottle showing Table Top mountain.

British Airways commissioned a set of books, filled with Drambuie and showing 12 castles from throughout the British Isles, 3 each from England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. These had the same transfers that Rutherford had already used on their jugs. After sample sets had been made they decided not to make the Irish bottles. Below are the three from Scotland, Balmoral, Edinburgh and Glamis.

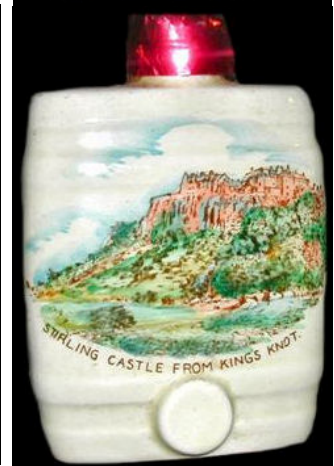
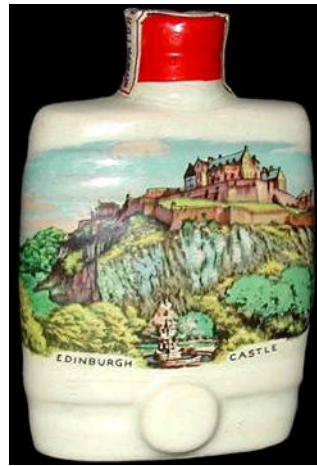
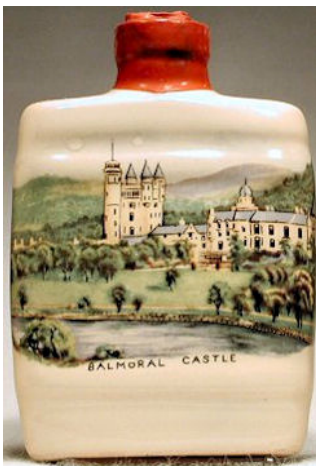
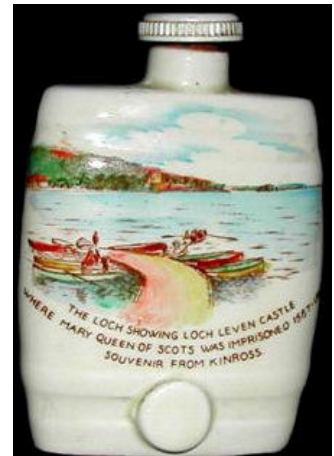




The last photo on the last page is another Glamis Castle book, this time from Rutherford. Rutherford have issued quite a number of castle books with different coloured spines and other variations. Shown on this page are black, brown and green examples.



The two paperweights are from Peter Thomson, better known as Beneagles, although the company is now part of Whyte & MacKay. There are a number of colour variations (at least 4) and these are part of a set that includes Burns Cottage and Tower Bridge.



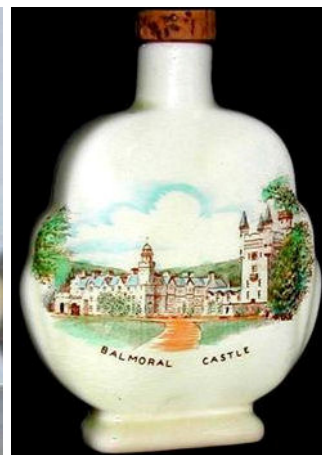
McLech made the five bottles above, the flat barrel shape flasks. There are dozens if not hundreds of different flasks but these are the only Scottish castles I know about. They all contain Clan Tartan Scotch. On the right we have two different examples of round flasks produced by McLech. The Balmoral Castle



uses the same picture as shown on the flat barrel flask but the Edinburgh Castle is completely different. McLech made one other shape of flask, the leaf Flask. On the right are two of many examples but the only Scottish Castles I know about.

It's about time we had some jugs so I will start with five jugs from English company, Lindisfarne. It may sound Scottish but Lindisfarne, otherwise known as Holy Island, is an island off the coast of Northumberland.

Lindisfarne Mead is made on the island at St Aidan's Winery. We start with the usual Balmoral and Edinburgh Castles (2) but then we have three different ones, Stirling, Floors & Blair.

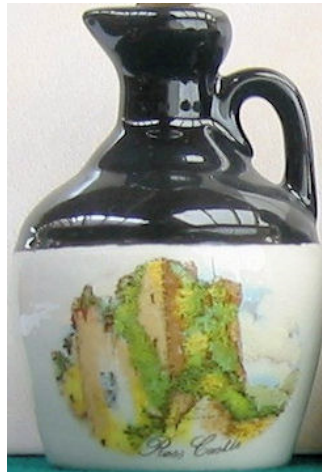
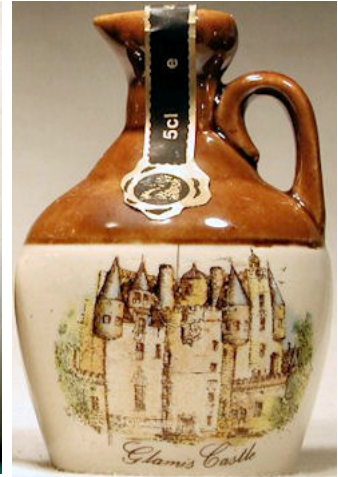
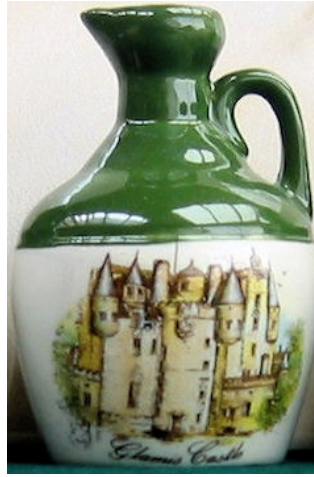


No article like this would be complete without a pile of jugs from Rutherford. They have been making miniature jugs for many years and the Castle Jugs have clearly been



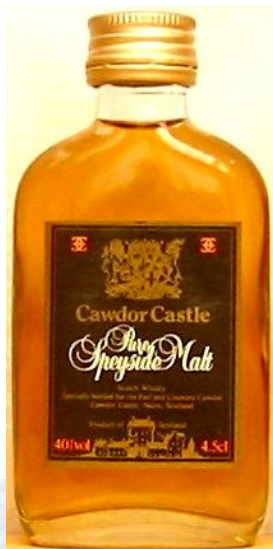
popular given the number you see in collections. They have been made with various coloured tops and at least four castles are pictured, Balmoral, Edinburgh, Glamis & Ross.





Back to straights now and we start with three castle bottles where the castle does not exist. The Castle has a picture of no castle in particular, although it does look Scottish. The Whisky Castle is a shop in Tomintoul, a village above Speyside, that used to sell miniatures by the hundreds, alas those days are long gone. Finally we have Royal Castle, a castle in name only.

Unfortunately I cannot tell you who made the Cawdor Castle bottle as it is not a very good photo. The watch shape Glamis Castle is from Stewart & Son of Dundee.



Starting the next page we have Cumbrae Castle. This displays a ship, presumably of the same name, but there is actually a Cumbrae Castle, albeit a somewhat small castle. Much better known would be St. Andrews Castle from Historic Scotland. Thirlestane Castle is a



private bottling for the castle. Dunnottar Castle was bottled for The Scottish Collection and finally above, Tantallon Castle is another bottle made for Historic Scotland.



Above we have Inverlochy Castle from Ben Nevis Distillery. On the left are two examples of Kindrochit Castle from George Strachan, and finally Castle Urquhart from the Victorian Scottish Landscapes set.

I'm sure you Scotch collectors out there can think of more. Pictures please for Miniature Bottle Library.

David Smith

2014 ST LOUIS SHOW

AND OTHER HOLIDAY BOTTLES



The Midwest show officially starts on the Friday night with a club meeting, buffet meal and auction. Unofficially there is usually a group of 12-20 who meet up on the Thursday night for a meal. Due to some confusion this went somewhat awry this year but five of us did enjoy a meal and chinwag about bottles on Thursday evening. This was not the only evening to go awry this year in St. Louis, more later.

The picture above shows Jim Crawford, Butch Jones, Ron Gabbard and Jim Biers, all members of both the Midwest club and our own. As you can see Friday night was well attended, and this picture does not show everybody.

There was a good selection of bottles being auctioned from a large box of miscellaneous bottles to rare single malts and some great ceramics. I bought the Manchester United set of 13 bottles, or I thought I had. I



discovered later that I was missing Matt Busby (the manager) and had one duplicate bottle. I did however buy them very cheaply, US\$102. I was stood next to the seller when

they were auctioned and he was clearly pissed-off at the low price.



It may not look it from my photos but this show was well attended. The photo below shows dealer Harry Goetz setting up. Harry came to the show from San Francisco via Florida, where he bought part of long time club member, Adrian Carr's collection. The cover bottles are all ex-Adrian and are all sample bottles. On the left is one of two Raintree clown

bottles (which I bought), in the middle is a warrior from Hawaiian Distillers and on the right is a Ski Country sample of a Drum Major (which I also bought). Probably the reason the latter was never made is that it bears a VERY close resemblance to the Dewar's Drum Major.





Above we have the other Raintree Clown sample, yet another Hoffman Cheerleader sample (see miNiZ100 Special Edition) and a sample MBC Stardust Casino (they are usually purple). Another collector pointed out the difference in size of the two Dunes bottles to me, so of course I photographed them for MBL. When I got home I noticed that the larger one says Los Vegas instead of Las Vegas – clearly another sample.

There were many other sample bottles (at least 12 Warner Brothers alone) on Harry's stand and many old and rare bottles, most of which sold. I also bought the Captain Cook toby jug bottle shown below. David Spaid has written an excellent article on these in the May MMBC Newsletter, so I am not going to duplicate the effort (join the MWMBC for US\$12 if you want to read the article <http://www.miniaturebottles.com/index.php>)



These toby jug bottles were made by Royal Doulton for Pick-Kwik. They are 187.50 or 200ml so I would not normally collect them but Captain Cook is such an important figure to NZ and it does have New Zealand on the handle. I have shown you one more of these jugs as it is the only double sided one. This one is from the Pickwick series and shows Sam Weller & Mr. Pickwick. The final picture above shows an MBC cowboy on a horse. I thought that this was a sample bottle but David Spaid assured me not, just a small run. David should know as he used to own MBC.

Harry buys cheap and sells cheap (generally) so there were lots of bargains to be had on

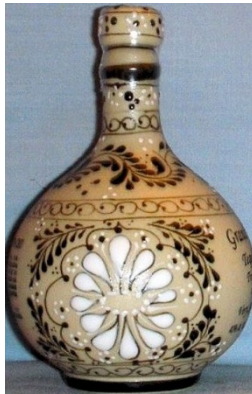


his stall. A few other prized purchases are shown on the left. Union Brewery is a ceramic bottle made by Dug's (best known for the brothel series), the man & woman are from RS Limited of California. The lips move (a flicker bottle) when you turn the bottle. There is at least one variation of each of these, a blue man (I just missed buying this on



another stall) and a woman with a blue top. The Mount Hope Old Time Fire Engine has been shown in miNiZ before but the other side was shown. I bought this for about a fifth of what they have sold for on Ebay.

It's about time we had some bottles I didn't buy. The first three bottles are all Tequillas. Destileria 501 Torero Anejo is the great bottle with the bull and bullfighter in the central hole. It is 50ml 38%. The next two



bottles are both Grand Mayan, the brown one Reposado and the blue Extra Anejo. Both are 50ml, 40%. Finally in this group we have a man made by Silver State for Stroh Brewery. It is a limited edition of 600. Note that these were never filled.



Next we have thirteen, yes, 13 new Ski Country bottles – but



only if you collect variations and have deep pockets. Otherwise there are three – read on.

First up is the White Tailed Deer. This comes in four variations, natural colour (190 made) and 20 each of white, gold &

silver (silver shown on last page, natural to the right). Ski Country has make 230 of the natural colour Squirrel, 40 black (both shown), 20 white and 10 each, gold & silver.



The Beagle is a pre-production sample so the final product may alter a little, although Ski Country's owner was happy with this bottle. It is intended that 160 of the natural be made and 15 each of gold, silver and white.

Expect to pay US\$40+ for each of the natural, US\$60+ for black, white & silver and US\$90+ for the gold pieces.



David Maund had to get in here somewhere! Misfortune seems to follow David everywhere. To cut a very long story short, David Spaid had arranged for 12 of us to have dinner Saturday night at a steak house. I had David & Lynn Maund and Harry Goetz in my car (one of three)

and we lost the others. None of us knew the name of the restaurant so we returned to the hotel and they booked another one for us and gave us the address. We were nearly finished our meals when Harry said, "you know, I think David (Spaid) may have mentioned the name of this restaurant to me." To be fair to Harry, he was in tremendous pain awaiting a hip replacement. He had been 'self medicating with his friend Jack Daniels' in the hospitality suite for 2 or 3 hours before coming out. "It can't have been this restaurant we were meant to be dining in" said David Maund "as David (Spaid) is not in this room or upstairs in the bar." Errrr.... "There's another room" says I (I had dined at the same restaurant but in another room the previous year with Rosie and the Gabbard brothers). It turned out that we had indeed all dined in the same restaurant, albeit in different rooms!



Another couple of show pictures for you. The gentleman on the right is a Spanish collector, Ruben Omar Cammarata (and his wife) who has over 42,000 minis! Incidentally, he only has the second largest collection in Spain as there is another collector with over 60,000!

Following the show I bought a 45 litre Esky (cooler), carefully packed my purchases and posted them to NZ. Normally I get no damage or one breakage but this time the Esky had clearly been badly thrown around. I had 10 breakages, although I have been able to glue back together 9 of them (not the same but better than nothing). The one bottle totally destroyed was one of the Manchester United flasks but the label was OK. I was able to transfer this to the one duplicate bottle, so I am still only missing the Matt Busby bottle – anyone got one for sale?. As an aside, last weekend I had one of my top cabinets in my bottle room open and, due to a slip on my part, about 50 bottles, mainly ceramic, fell 6 to 7 feet onto the floor. Bottles are stronger than you think as only 8 broke (2 repairable). Unfortunately one of those is probably irreplaceable.

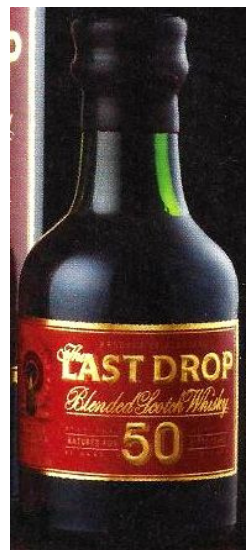


Leaving the US I then went to the UK for 8 weeks. This was not a bottle collecting trip but, of course, I always keep my eyes open. Craft Cymru is a chain of 5 gift shops in North Wales. There was not much in the Caernafon shop (opposite the castle) although they did have the set of 5 liqueurs above. When on the island of Anglesey I visited another of their shops in Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogogoch where they had a much bigger selection of minis. Mini Bottle Blast (subscription is free, email member Ron Gabbard gabspa@msn.com) shows more of the bottles I found there.



After North Wales I was briefly in the Midlands. This included a Sunday and, as is essential if you are a mini collector, we visited a couple of car boot sales. There were lots of bottles, all cheap, and I added 6 to my collection.

Later in the trip we were in York. The Whisky Shop is a



chain and all carry a good selection of minis, although in this one, nothing I wanted. One set that did catch my eye is the three waters to the left. I don't know whether to say good idea or gimmicky. Fancy paying £2200 for a mini? You do get a 700ml bottle thrown in so that you can try it. The



Last Drop is a blended Scotch that was vatted 50 years ago from 82 different whiskies. Most of this whisky was bottled many years ago and sold as a 12 year old blend but three barrels were forgotten – until now. Also in York is the York Brewery (well worth a visit, as is York generally if you are visiting the UK). They make one miniature, ‘Centurian’s Ghost Elysian Spirit.’ This is made by distilling one of their beers. I haven’t heard of this before, can anyone come up with any others?

In the words of Warner Brothers “That’s all Folks”

David Smith

SOME NEW BOTTLES



A couple of years ago I picked up two Amrut Indian whiskies, the single malt and the peated single malt. I recently picked up another two. The first is Amrut Fusion Single Malt (50% proof) which was rated third finest whisky in the world by Jim Murray in 2010. The other one is also peated but released at cask strength (62.8% proof). Amrut Distillery was founded in 1948. They launched India's first malt whisky in 2004 appropriately, in Scotland. Amrut is a Sanskrit word meaning nectar of life. Indian whiskies are gaining a reputation for quality so maybe more will use their own name rather than made up ones such as McDowalls. Amrut produce at least four other malt whiskies plus a deluxe rum and Bejois brandy.

Monkey Shoulder is a blended malt whisky from Speyside. It is produced by William Grant & Sons at 40% proof. The last bottle, The Kraken, is a black spiced rum. It is bottled by Kraken Rum Company in Florida. The Kraken is a mythical sea monster from Norse legends. Shaped like a giant squid it would pull ships down to the sea bed. After a couple of nips at 94% proof you could probably face up to the Kraken. All bottles are made from glass.

Frank Wynn

HOW DID YOU LET THESE E-BAY DEALS GET AWAY?



This set of 6 cheerleaders that the seller claimed was limited to only 2 of each bottles and this was the only complete set was on sale with an asking price off U.S. \$20,000 and don't forget the \$100 shipping on top of that.



The Mobana monkey can always be found for anywhere from \$29.95 to \$79.95 but the Tequila is the one that always makes me laugh the hardest. It comes from a distillery and the bottle is hand signed and the only 1 available. They even give you a "certificate of authenticity" that lets you know it is worth \$1750.00 but you can buy it for only \$89.95. They keep changing the bottle, but not the claims.

And finally for a mere \$3250.00 you could have gotten not only the Elvis bottle but the barracks display too. The fact that the majority of these items don't sell, doesn't stop the sellers from hoping to find a sucker to purchase their "rare finds".

Ron Gabbard

- 17 -

I find there are 2 reasons to check out bottles on e-bay. The first is to look for bottles I may be interested in for my collection and the second is to entertain myself with some of the outrageous claims and prices some sellers put on their "extremely rare, one of a kind, limited edition" bottles. Here are some of "classics" I have found.



A Tia Maria bottle that is very common and you might find for \$1 at most bottle shows (and it probably wouldn't sell at that price) could have been yours for only U.S.\$29.95



This 1958 bourbon bottle with a torn Airlines label and missing label (to determine brand) and they only wanted \$500.00 and \$55.00 for shipping



AS SEEN ON EBAY #28

It was in miNiZ102 that we had the last 'As Seen on Ebay' so it is about time we had another.



The pair of Poodles from MBC date from 1974. They sold for a very reasonable US\$15. Yogi Bear is I am sure familiar to all of you but not to most of you as a bottle as this is an extremely rare one. It was made by Linfa Salus of Italy and is one of a set. Yogi sold for US\$104.49 after 5 bids – high but probably not too high given the subject matter and rarity.

One of the rarest Luxardo bottles is the Romeo & Juliet full colour



bottle. Even rarer is the all cream one to the left. Both sold recently on Ebay but unfortunately I forgot to record the prices. Neither would have been cheap. The next two both sold for cents less than US\$20 – a good price for both, for the seller that is. The Highland Bagpiper is from Drioli and Deacon Brodie is from McLech.

The seal was issued by Cumbrae Supply Co. and filled with Long John Scotch. US\$15.99 bought it. The Moose & Calf are from Cyrus Noble.



This sold very well at US\$29.99. The Sgian-Dubh (Scottish Dagger) from Beneagles would usually sell for more than the US\$19 that this one sold for.



It's about time we had some straights. On the next page. First up is Special Courier Whisky from Bhutan. This bottle was especially made for Druk Air. It sold for US\$14.99.



Next is a Jack Daniels green label with an Italian over-label. It was made in 1974 and is 4cl, 45°. The green label always sells well but €35.50 was very well.

The top seller in this group is Glenrothes 1978 Single Malt Scotch Whisky. This went for €70.00

Finally, we have the

other end of the scale. These 5 year old Glen Grant flasks sold for only €5.49 for the pair.



Both these jugs were sold by whiskyauktion.com. The Ye Whisky of Ye Monks Scotch is 1/10 pint, 86.8% proof. €8 was a poor result. Happy New Year is a Rutherford's jug. €19 was a very good result for the seller.



These Scotch Whisky cigars were not sold by auction but are currently on sale in NZ – I just thought that I would let you know to look out for them. The wooden bottle with dice was made for London brewery, Barclay's. £42.01 is on the top side for one of these bottles (I would expect about US\$40). The Whyte & McKay is another wooden bottle with dice. £8.49 is much too cheap, although this is a more common one of these.

On the next page we have two more bottles sold by whiskyauktion.com. The Glenfarclas single malt scotch was distilled in 1953, stored in cask #1674 and bottled as

a 58 year old in 2012.
 This is a 50ml bottle at 47.2%. I know that you are expecting this to be expensive. It was! €1,011 (about NZ\$1580 at time of writing this). Even more expensive is our next, old and boxed whisky bottle, this time a Japanese one. The Karuizawa 1964 whisky is another 50ml bottle, his time at 47.5%. This was bottles as a 48 year old from cask #3603. A snip at only €1,206 (about NZ\$1885 at time of writing this).



As a whisky collector I would love to have both of these bottles but at these prices they are completely out of my league. Who pays these sort of prices?

Peter Bonkovich

DATE, TIME & PLACE

Sunday 24th August 2014, 12.30pm Pot Luck Lunch, Ian Butcher's, 5 Sunburst Court, Paraparaumu.
 Telephone: 04 904 3157 E-Mail: poppa.chopper@clear.net.nz

Sunday 5th October 2014, 12.30pm Pot Luck Lunch, Colin & Dianne's, 20 Prospect Terrace, Johnsonville.
 Telephone: 04 478 4391 E-Mail: rydercj@xtra.co.nz

Saturday 6th December 2014, Christmas Dinner – Venue to be arranged

Saturday 10th January 2015, 6.00pm Barbecue, David & Rosie's, 11 Trevor Terrace, Paremata. Telephone: 04 233 2997 E-Mail: minizv@gmail.com

February 21st/22nd 2015, AGM & Weekend, Wellington. Details to be advised.

I'm about to have a moan again. Other than Peter Bonkovich and Frank Wynn I have received no other articles for this issue (Ron Gabbard's is left over from the 100th edition, as is my Castles article). I now have no, none, not one article in stock. If I don't get several for the next miNiZ there will not be a next miNiZ!