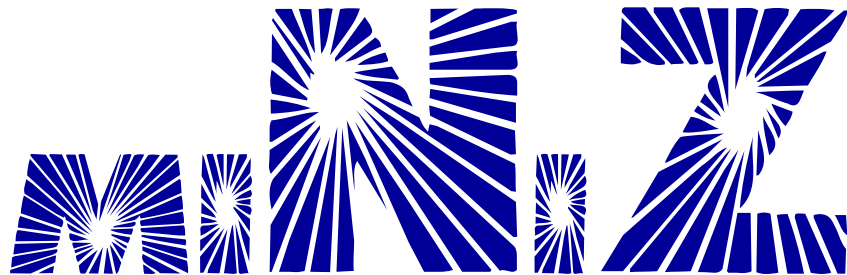
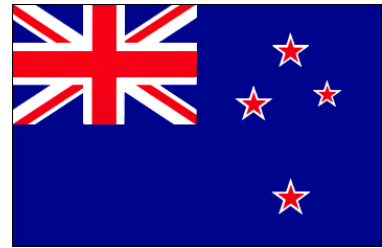


Issue 107

Summer 2015



THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW ZEALAND MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



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

COVER BOTTLES, THIS & THAT

The first of our cover bottle photos comes from Frank Wynn, who I will let tell the story. "This bottle, Cyril's Singlewood 02, is part of the New Zealand Whisky Collection and commemorates Cyril Yates who has worked at the Willowbank Distillery for 20 years. Batch 01 consisted of 540 bottles but I do not know how many miniatures, if any. This is batch 02 and the manager of the Whisky Shop said they no longer produce the whisky. The bad news is that it comes in a set of three and the other two were part of last year's threesome. This bottle replaces the middle one on the cover of miNiZ104."

Our second cover bottle photo comes from Neil Atkinson. Neil is a relatively new collector, even though of pensionable age, which is probably average for mini bottle collectors. He is clearly very enthusiastic as you can see later in this issue. This bottle is filled with McKenna Bourbon, which was bottled in NZ but, as far as I am aware, is/was only for sale in Australia. Unfortunately it is plastic.



I came across this old press photo from 1935 whilst doing research for Miniature Bottle Library. This depicts collector J.J. Osie of St Paul, Minnesota, USA and his collection of mini liquor bottles. I won't ask if any of you knew him as it was 80 years ago. Most of the bottles are familiar and many are likely to be still in existence and in a collection or collections now. I wonder where these bottles ended up?

There is an exhibition currently on at Te Papa (The national museum for the benefit of our overseas members. Just after the museum opened a real estate agent got himself in hot water for advertising for sale the building over the road as Te Mama!). The exhibition is for the 75th anniversary of Air New Zealand. Among many other things it features three of the Air NZ

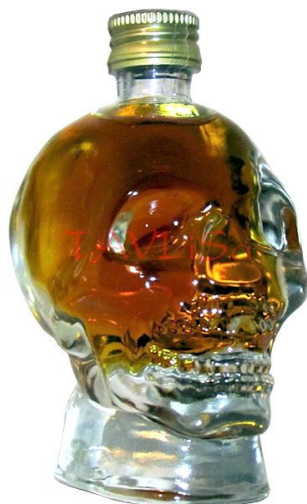
Buildings – we could have lent them a full set if they had asked. The exhibition is on until 7th June.

I normally give David Spaid a page or two of his own but we only have three bottles to show you this time – but aren't they GREAT!

On the right we have two double face skulls from Suicide of the Czech Republic. Both contain Absinth, the purple being Gothic and the red Red Chili.

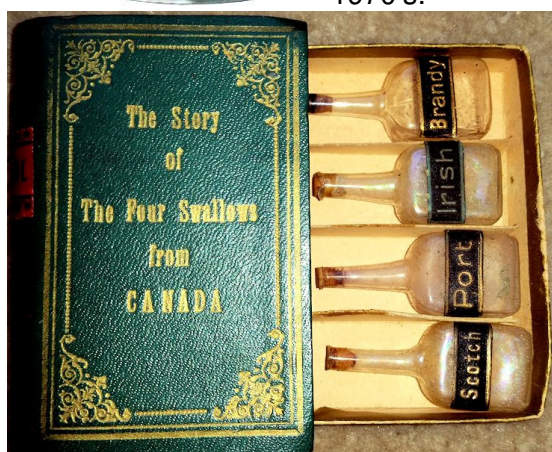


The third bottle is a single malt Scotch from The Macallan. The Angels Share is a blown glass piece about 75mm (3") tall. It has only been for sale at the distillery.



Running MBL I get photos of interesting bottles sent to me or come across them on-line whilst doing research. I came across another new skull bottle on a Slovakian site, this one only single faced. This is Rum Tuzemský Lebka 37,5% 50ml.

On the right we have a picture of a man hugging a jug bottle. This was sent to me as the sender was trying to find out some information about it (almost a daily occurrence). The only thing I know is that it is from Schroffen of Germany, contains Gebirgs Enzian and, probably, is from the 1970's.



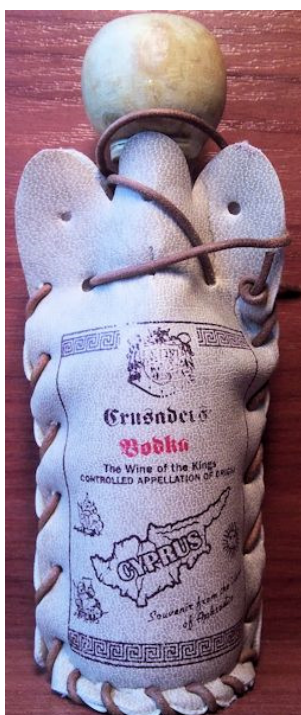
The photo on the right was sent to me this morning. I have a number of these on MBL but not this one. See <http://www.minibottlelibrary.com/mb/alpha/four-swallows/index.html> It is in remarkable condition for something almost 100 years old and made of cardboard. These were made in Germany for, mainly, the US and Canadian market in, probably, the 1920's. I am not sure of the size but these are micros so say about 15ml per bottle.

Another book starts off our next page. I came across The Legend of Kremlin book on a collector's site. I can tell you nothing more about it but I guarantee that this would be VERY sort after by Vodka collectors – and I wouldn't mind one myself!

I have to admit to not remembering where the image of the pomegranate came from. However the bottle itself is from the Proshyan Brandy Factory of Armenia. Next to this are three Wade ceramics from Jim Beam. These are miniature size and capable of being filled but never were. They were made in 2001 for the IAJBBSC (International Association of Jim Beam Bottle & Specialties Clubs). See more of these at: <http://www.minibottlelibrary.com/mb/alpha/jim-beam/index.html>



Kindness barrels, both clear glass and milk glass ones like this are a common as muck, but not this one. I have only ever seen a picture of this one a few millimetres high before. The lesson here is if you see the "I've bought a barrel of Kindness back" logo on a bottle in a junk shop don't ignore it. One time in a hundred or two or three it will pay to turn it around.



I remember that the picture of the bottle in a leather pouch came from a Russian site. Crusader's Vodka (not a politically correct name at the moment!) is from Cyprus and is one of many bottles sold in these leather pouches.

Some of you will have noticed that this issue of miNiZ is late. So will the next one be if I don't get more articles! My sincere thanks to all who did contribute.

David Smith

A VERY SAD STORY

I live in Australia and have been buying some rare old Australian mini bottles recently. I was trying to capture a bit of Australian Mini Bottle history for MBL - that's my story anyway!



So.....15 bottles appear on eBay and I am excited to see a few very different Australian bottles. They are in good condition so I buy them. Instead of waiting a week for delivery I had to wait more like three weeks and then they arrived in a sealed Australia Post clear plastic bag bearing large red stickers "Danger – Broken glass".

Inside is a pig swill of alcohol, broken glass, broken Bakelite caps, labels, etc.

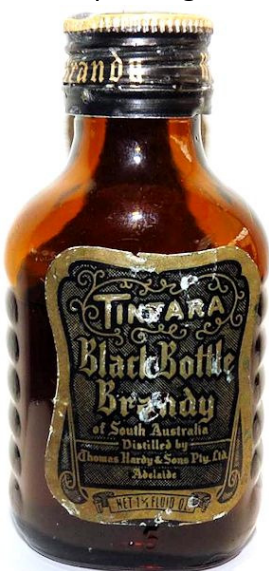
Why has this happened? The turkey who sold them to me had placed 15 mini bottles in a bubble wrap satchel without even individually wrapping them first. All unwrapped in an unsealed satchel they were then

placed into an Australia Post plastic satchel to move at random and grind against each other, let alone trying to compete with the pressure from adjacent parcels. What on earth was he thinking? He must have seen the Australia Post promotional documentary where all the baggage handlers wear soft woollen mittens and place each parcel gently into a warm cotton-wool lined transport box. He must have missed the recent you-tube postings of postal workers throwing and kicking parcels into the back of a large truck? (In the mid-70's I lived for a time behind the parcel office in Brisbane. I can attest that any parcel that said "Fragile" on it was thrown and rarely caught. I NEVER put fragile on any parcel – editor).



I gingerly opened the whole shebang over the kitchen sink and rinsed bottles, re-attached labels, got rid of hundreds of small slivers of glass and left the survivors to dry.

One bottle was literally smashed into a thousand small slivers. Only the labels survived and photos are attached. Another bottle had its neck top broken off and lost its contents. Another bottle had a large chunk of its Bakelite screw cap smashed off but miraculously the contents didn't leak. Damage to some labels was horrendous, minor to others and I think that of the remaining bottles, every one of them suffered damage of some sort to the lid/cap. Two of the bottles have rusted caps and others have just got lots of dents and distortion.



I was, as you would imagine, heartbroken to lose a small amount of history. Ironically there were bottles in the package that could have been smashed and I would not have cared so much, but a couple of the “more rare ones” suffered the most damage.



The smashed bottle is the one on the far right of the top row of the group photo. The one that had its neck broken is the first individual photo. The two Reynella Brandy have rust on their lids.

The other one that I’m concerned about getting a decent photo of for the MBL is the photo on the left above - Glenloth. The label was almost destroyed. (Don’t worry too much Neil, I’m sure there are dozens of Australian wines that we have not got photos of on Miniature Bottle Library – now there’s a challenge for you! – editor).



The Bundaberg on the right is not one of my purchases. In ‘As Seen on Ebay #29’ in the last miNiZ there was an empty Bundaberg Rum that may have sold for A\$300. Peter doubted that it did but David pointed out that there are some fanatical Bundaberg collectors in Aus. This one is less common than the other (it lacks the 37.5% alc/vol overprint) but still sold at auction for A\$164 + a 15% buyers fee - A\$188.60 in total, plus postage. Some Australian collectors are crazy about Bundy!



Neil Atkinson

WHAT'S IN A NAME #2



VAT 69

No it is not the pope's phone number or the Pope's favourite anything else. In 1882 William Sanderson created 100 blends of whisky and invited a group from the whisky trade to taste them. Vating 69 was the most popular and thus a star was born.

CHEQUERS

Chequers is the name of the British Prime Minister's country residence.

THE ANTIQUARY

The name was chosen to commemorate the novel of the same name written by Sir Walter Scott.

ROYAL SALUTE

A royal salute is a 21 gun tribute to a member of the British royal family. This whisky was introduced in 1953 to commemorate the Queen's coronation that year. The whisky is 21 years old and was originally available only in the United States. At that time the bottles were made by Royal Doulton but now they are produced by Wade Potteries.

QUEEN ANNE

The whisky is named after the last Stuart reigning monarch. She reigned from 1702 until 1714.

TE BHEAG

This whisky first appeared in 1976 and it's full title is Te Bheag nan Eilean. It translates as "the little lady of the islands" and is pronounced chay vek nan eelan. It was produced to promote the Gaelic language and help the local community on the Isle of Skye. The label is all in Scottish Gaelic and they say that after a few nips you can translate the words. The fishing boat on the label recognises the importance of fishing to the community.



Frank Wynn

On the subject of Royal Salute, Neil Atkinson sent us some information on the sale of sets of three (blue, red, green) in Australia. Worldwide Whiskies sell them for A\$306.90 plus postage. A set sold on Ebay late last year for A\$168.60 + A\$30 postage and another earlier this year for A\$51 + A\$14 postage. The later price is closer to what these should be worth as they are very common. There are two other colours that have been made. A brown which, as far as we can tell, has only been sold in NZ and Japan, and a super rare white. This has a US importer's name on but seems to have only been sold in Taiwan - Editor

ANOTHER OLD COLLECTION

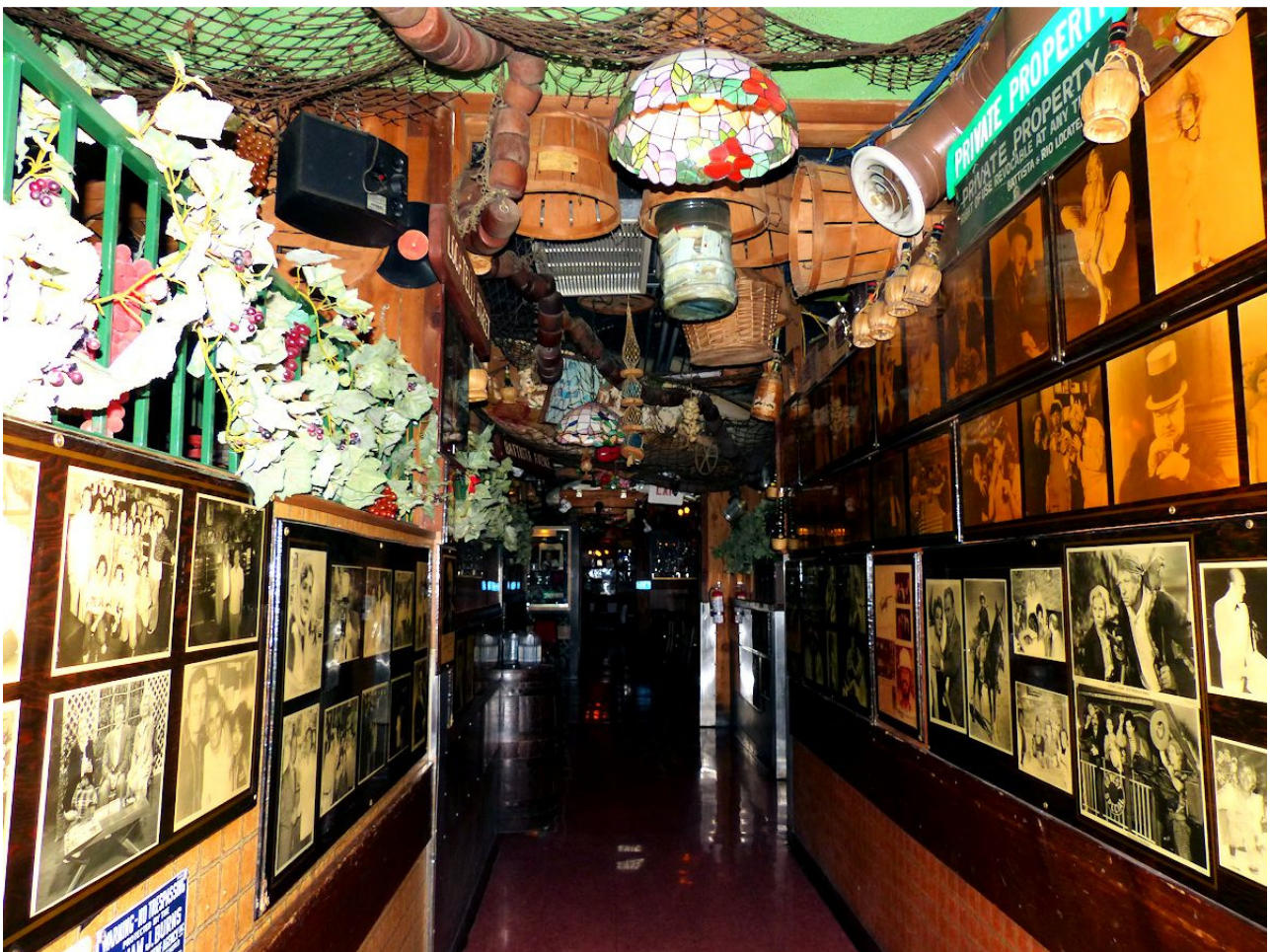
Rosie looked over my shoulder and saw the old photo from 1935 (page 2). She asked if I had ever “used the photos from that old Italian restaurant in Las Vegas that we were in two years ago.” I had forgotten that Rosie had taken some and had never seen them.

We both forget the name of the restaurant and a search on Google Earth Street View shows the sign saying “Fine Italian Cuisine” but the main sign is now for a liquor store. The restaurant was on Koval Lane, near the corner with Flamingo Road and right by the entrance to the Flamingo Casino car park – which is how we spotted it, returning late one night after a day out of the city. Not having eaten we decided to give it a try.

The place had been there for about 60 years but we dined on one of their last nights. The food was good but not great, rustic, authentic Italian. The place, as you will see in the photos, was liberally adorned with photos and memorabilia. The photos all being individually signed by the stars that had dined there over the years, some, including Frank Sinatra, on a very regular basis.

Unfortunately the building, and a couple by it, had been bought by the Flamingo and all the tenants had been given just a month’s notice to get out as they were going to re-develop as soon as possible. I saw the cabinets with the miniatures in and got talking to the owner, a lady in her 80’s (first photo). Her and her husband had started the restaurant many years before and the miniature collection was both a decoration and her late husband’s hobby. There were several cabinets and many diners had added to it over the years. There were bottles that I had only ever seen pictures of previously and some that I had never seen at all. I asked what was to become of it and she said she was going to give it to her staff. I will let the photos speak for themselves although, unfortunately, the rarest bottles were in a cabinet Rosie could not photograph as there were still diners in the booth.





There used to be several collections like this in NZ pubs but all are now long gone. I had not been told that this collection was here and it was pure luck I saw it just before the restaurant went out of business. Do you know of any more in public places anywhere in the world? If so let us know please.

David Smith

CASTLE GLEN

In November we had a few days off and whilst away we came across these mini bottles. They are 70ml in volume and about 16cm tall. I have 22 to show you here but there are 144 different bottles in total!

Castle Glen is in Stanthorpe, Australia on the southern border of Queensland and 150km from the sea. Their web site is www.castleglenaustralia.com.au These bottles can be bought mail order. They are A\$9.50 each or \$6 each for 5 or more.





The most intriguing of these are the six bottles in the 'Sex' series. The flavours are:

Sex in the Sunset is 9 liqueurs with Pomegranate.

Sex in the Moonlight is blueberry with white port.

Sex in the Mud is 1/2 Chocolate with hazel nut liqueur.

Sex in Vineyard is 9 liqueurs with white port.

Sex in the Forest is white port with orange lemon and lime.

Sex in the Sand is Pineapple and white port.

I will try to get photos of some of the others another time. (I have tried to get photos of all of these for Miniature Bottle Library but cannot get a reply – editor)

Maree Ramsay

A LOAD OF COBBLERS - SHOES

We start this second 'Foot Fetish' article with a Benedetti bottle that looks like a boot but is actually a medieval shoe with straps that go up the leg to hold it on. It is a 4cl bottle that has been used by at least two companies (Valenti being the other I know about). From Benedetti it has also been made in a version that says "Souvenir Della Ciociattia" so I suspect there are other variations. This one sold on Ebay for US\$23.73.



There are not a lot of miniature ceramic shoes as far as I am aware. The one on the left above is from Carlon of Argentina and contains Tunquelen Blanco wine. This bottle has also been used by another Argentinian company, Brugiapaglia. The middle bottle is from the Portugese island of Madiera – no guesses as to what it contains. It was made by Faria and Filhos, who also made an excellent 'A Frame' house bottle. The final bottle above is a Sandal from Suvenir. This contains Damasco liqueur but, as with other Suvenir bottles, I suspect that it can be found with various contents.

Glass stilettos are a dime a dozen in Europe – figuratively speaking only of course! There are four variations of the common 40ml version, 2 x clip top and 2 x cork top. Look for the 'beading' on the more common version to distinguish between the two (of each). I am showing you only a fraction of those I know about, see <http://www.minibottlelibrary.com/mbl/alpha/themes/shoe.html> for dozens more.





Above we have, Row 1: Danic, Croatia; Codesal, Spain; Kwaczek, Czech Republic & Nanerl, Austria. Row 2: Bodegas Garcés, Spain; Debenhams, UK; Jobelius Brenneri, Germany & Lua, Croatia. Row 3: Meikerels, Belgium; Bonzar, Slovenia; Gerard le Pocreau, France & Caffo, Italy.



All the above come with various contents.

I left Italy until last as there are just soooo many from there. The bottle on the left is Limoncello from Correale, also, of course, from Italy. A nice variant is the blue liqueur stiletto bottle in the blue shoe. I believe that this is also Italian but I do not know who made it.



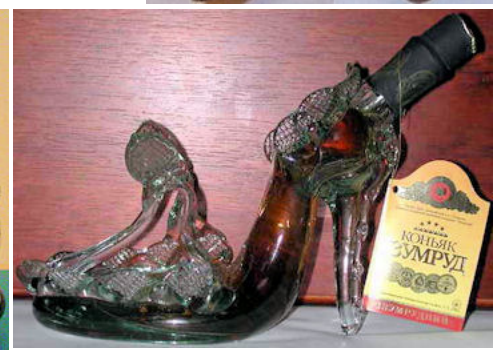
Whilst we are dealing with Italian glass shoes I must show you this gem from Nello Gori. It looks more like a boot to me but represents the shoe from the children's poem, "The Woman Who Lived in a Shoe."

There was an old woman who lived in a shoe.
She had so many children, she didn't know what to do.
She gave them some broth without any bread;
And whipped them all soundly and put them to bed.

Not exactly PC! By-the-way, the bottle contains rose wine.

The shoe on the right was formerly in Adrian Carr's collection. The bottle is from Guillot of France and, I suspect, is from the 1920's or 30's. It is filled with Apricot Brandy.

Below we have three blown and drawn glass bottles from the former Soviet Union. The first two are from Map Company of Armenia. These contain Samvel 1st 5* Armenian Brandy. Both are 40%, 0.1 litre. The third one is from the Ukraine and, I am sure you will agree, this is a real gem. It contains Ukrainian Cognac (brandy).



The two bottles on the left are both from the same general area. On the far left we have a bottle in a wooden shoe from Takovo, a company from the former Yugoslavia. I know of a number of variations of these and I suspect the bottle is interchangeable. The

elaborately carved wooden shoe is from Badel of Croatia, part of the former Yugoslavia. Again, the bottle is interchangeable.

The two bottles on the right look more like slippers than shoes to me. The first one is from Campeny of Spain and the second from Scheibel of Germany. I suspect that there are many variations of both of these.



And so onto clogs. All of these are from Holland. On this page we have a ceramic (I think) clog with a bottle in it from Hooghout.

Starting the next page we have three clogs from Rynbende. The first is an older label delft version with US import labels. The middle one is probably the most common Rynbende

clog, this time with the 'butterfly' label. Also with a 'butterfly' label is the considerably more rare multicolour (sometimes called Gouda) clog. All these clogs can be found with different liqueurs, although Cherry Brandy is by far the most common.



The clog to the far left is all ceramic, including the bottle. It is from Wittkamp. It almost certainly contains

Genever. Next to it is another all ceramic clog and bottle combination. This is the first of our Bols bottles and by far the rarest. It contains vodka but I again suspect that others have been made.

Finally we have three Bols bottles in wooden clogs. They are shown with the oldest first. All these clogs can be found with various bottles in them.



That's all I had for you but, as we have some space left on this page, herewith three bonus stilettoes. I have chosen three very nicely painted ones. The first is from

the quaintly named Country Fleamarket of Italy, the second from an unknown company but believed to be French and the third is down as completely unknown on MBL but I suspect is from Italy.



Now, that really is the lot.

David Smith

WYNVALE – A FAIRY STORY



Once upon a time Wynvale Wines decided to do a 200 ml (sorry, 6-2/3 fluid ounces) bottle in the shape of an upright barrel. The bottle was plain, they put a paper label on it and a flush cork. Unfortunately when the label fell off, and yes, they did fall off, you were left with a bottle of unknown origin and contents. Yes, I know that 200ml is oversize for miniatures but they do appear in many collections in this part of the world, so bear with me.

For their next effort the glass bottle's bottom was embossed with Wynvale during manufacture and they printed the company name on the outside of the bottle in white ink and added a cork with an upstanding white top. Whether they put on a paper label or a plastic printed seal around the cork unfortunately, same result. With age and time, no label and again, unknown contents but if you're smart enough to invert the bottle you will at least know the bottle's origin.



Somebody even thought about saving money on bottle making by printing a 6 pence bottle refund on the top of the cork. I'm afraid that this too seems doomed to failure because once the cork is removed the refund message is gone.



Finally they put a metal screw cap on the bottle and printed the contents on the metal cap, even using different colours for different wines. Problem solved.

At about this time they also, finally, decided to do a 50ml bottle looking the same as the bigger one. Learning from past mistakes, this bottle is clearly marked Wynvale around the base, readily identifying it for all time, but unfortunately the paper label still fell off – frequently! (The moral of this story is don't buy Australian glue – editor)



As all good fairy stories end with a happy ending, this one does too. I get to drink them all to check on their contents! (Good luck with that Neil. This was not good wine when bottled and will be terrible now – editor)



Neil Atkinson

A FEW NEW TO ME

In no particular order I would like to show you a few of the bottles I have bought in the last 6 months. I will let them speak for themselves.



Erica Mulder

AS SEEN ON EBAY #30

We have a nearly all ceramic version this time, although there is one glass figural and one 'gem' of a straight bottle at the end of the second page and some 'silly price' straights on page three. Many of the bottles shown are being sold by a major US collector who is either selling his complete collection or considerably slimming it down. We will kick-off with several sets of Peruvian Books.



Set of 6 Fundo Real Art Books
US\$48 (These are still on sale, ex-Peru, at US\$55)



The first of these three sets each of 5 Sotelo books sold for US\$105.50, the second for US\$48 and the third for US\$44 (These are still on sale, ex-Peru, at US\$60 per set for the first two and US\$75 for the third)



The Hulstkamp aeroplane from Holland is a very much sort after mini. US\$150 bought this one – about right we think. Note that this may be missing the stand. We are not sure whether these always had a stand but there are both ceramic and plastic stands for this.

We start the next page with two more Dutch minis, this time two Rynbende cats. These are two of the hardest Rynbende ceramic minis to obtain as they rarely come up for sale so US\$76.90 and US\$76.50 is not a surprise. The next bottle is Manhattan Geppetto from the 1940 Pinocchio set. This

went very cheaply at US\$21.09. The Cowboy 'flicker' bottle is one of a number of 'flicker' bottles from Drioli. £12.70 was about what we would have expected.



The Rutherford Belted Angus Bull sold for a rather high €20.50 (although in-line with the one shown in As Seen on Ebay #29) whereas the Ski Country White Rhino went cheaply at US\$32.88.



It's about time we had some glass. The final two bottles on this page were sold by the Whisky Auction, based in Germany. At €24 the Suntory Car was certainly over-priced. The Ardbeg Galileo bottle sold for €651 (no we have not missed out the decimal point). Is this overpriced or not? We will leave it to you to decide.



Neil Atkinson sent us the link to the three 'sets' of straights on the next page. The guy selling these obviously has no idea of what minis are worth – or not!

Ron Gabbard loves to show examples of idiots like this in the Northwest Miniature Bottle Club newsletter but these are Australian examples. How would you like to buy 8 Casoni liqueurs for A\$400 minimum bid or A\$550 Buy-it-Now? Or 8 Bols, some really crappy but described as 'New Condition',



for A\$190 or A\$270 Buy-it-Now. If they do not catch your fancy, how about 15 Scotches (he will not break the 'set') for A\$550 or A\$700 Buy-it-Now. For these prices I would at least expect good photography!



We have found two NZ shops that sell minis by mail order:

<http://boozee.co.nz/spirits/small-bottle>

<http://www.topshelfliquor.co.nz/estore/category/minatures.aspx#.VMrbXym278s>

Peter Bonkovich & David Smith

GODET

Cognac house Godet has given us a few great minis over the years and this is another one. The company was founded in 1782 and is still family owned. In March 2008 Jean-Jacques Godet (14th generation) with a crew of 10 landed a small yacht on Antarctica. This was the smallest boat to have accomplished this feat. To celebrate this the company produced Antarctica Cognac. Despite the gimmicks (it is served cold) it is a true Cognac and aged for at least seven years. The only change from a normal cognac is the process to remove the colour. To show they still make traditional coloured cognacs I have also included a photo of their Selection Special.



Frank Wynn