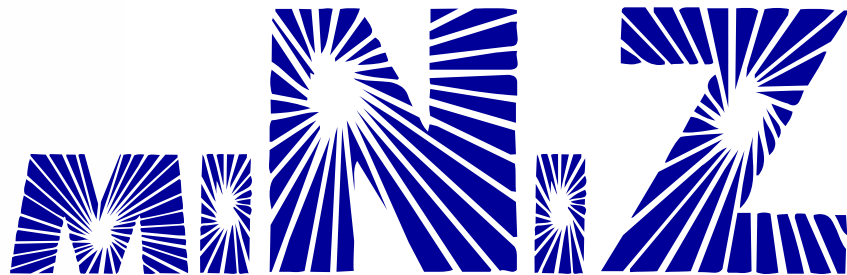
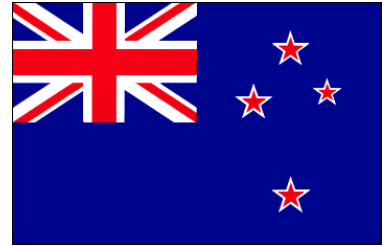


Issue 109

Winter 2015



THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW ZEALAND MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



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

NEW NEW ZEALAND, THIS & THAT

Our cover this quarter shows a super rare Baitz blown glass Olympic Torch, made for the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. See Baitz article for more on this.



I couldn't resist showing you these ones when I came across them. No 'Grexit' has actually happened but a German entrepreneur was ready for it if it did. The small bottle contains 2cl of Lemon Vodka and the larger one 100ml.

The 5 bottles on the right are from Triple Rock of NZ. They are 50ml plastic bottles and are stocked by Liquorland. I can't tell you any more, except to say that the plain vodka seems now to only be sold with a San Francisco World Spirits Competition over-sticker, as below.



Now for something completely different – and then some! On the right is Tezhi Sanbian Jiu, which roughly translates to “Three-Penis Liquor.” It is made from exactly that; seal penis, deer penis and Cantonese dog penis are brewed to produce this unique Chinese rice wine, which is also used as a traditional medicine that is believed to impart male potency and virility. Bottles of Tezhi Sanbian Jiu can apparently be found in supermarkets across Shanghai. At 125ml (30%) this is a bit bigger than a true miniature but would make a fine edition to any weird and wonderful sub-collection.



It is rare to find a bottle in mint condition that is over 60 years old, even rarer still to find a pair with the original box and posting box. But this is even more special than that as it is an otherwise un-reported bottle from a well known and highly collectable distillery.

With my Miniature Bottle Library hat on I got an email from someone who wanted to



sell this pair but wanted to know what they were worth. I get enquiries like this almost every day and can usually help but this one had me stumped for reasons given above. I therefore emailed a few collectors who I knew might know and/or be interested in buying these. One of our members

made an offer, which I passed on and was accepted (I'm not at liberty to say how much).

Talking of MBL, I have had some interesting correspondence with two distilleries, Dry Country of Oregon and Sam Seng of Hong Kong. Both have promised to forward photos of any new minis to us. Sam Seng also suggested a few changes (corrections) to their listings. Hopefully this is the start of what could become a deluge if a substantial number of distilleries follow suit.

Microminis are one of my passions and as a sub-collection I have hundreds of Cokes. In fact, when these two sets arrive, I will have over 1,000. These bottles are aluminium, similar to the ones I showed you for the World Cup in Brazil in 2014 (miniz104). They are about 75mm (3") tall.



The set above was made this year for 'The Spanish Music Experience.' The one on the left seems to date from 2010, although I have a suspicion it was issued later than that. It was made for the 100th Anniversary of Coca Cola in Romania.

David Smith



THE BEST OF AUSTRALIA

As mentioned earlier, the cover shows a previously unknown Baitz bottle, a blown glass Olympic torch. As it says on the base, this bottle was made for the XVI Olympiad, Melbourne, Australia, Nov. 22 – Dec. 8, 1956. At 240mm tall with a 70mm diameter base this appears to be the only blown glass Baitz bottle that I know of that is not a miniature. However, the label says that the quantity is 1¾ fl.oz., about 50ml, which means it is a miniature, in quantity anyway. It sold for A\$189.28



C & E Baitz was based in Melbourne and still is, although it is now part of the Alepat Taylor group. Unfortunately it no longer produces fancy bottles. However in the 1950's and 60's it certainly made the best blown glass bottles in Australia and, arguably, the world. You may like to see a few more.....



Parrot
Tree
Koala
Golf Cart
Parasol
Bird Bath



Duck Billed Platypus

Stork with Baby



Snake
Elephant
Seal



Kangaroo with Joey

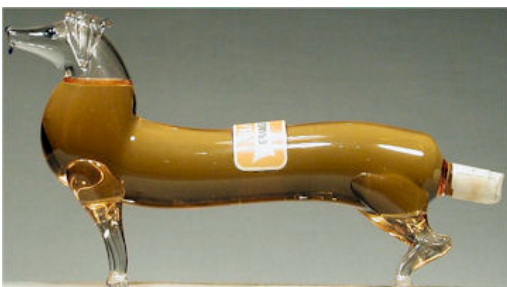
Barrel with 2 Cups

Sailing Ship

Swordfish



Dachshund



Swan



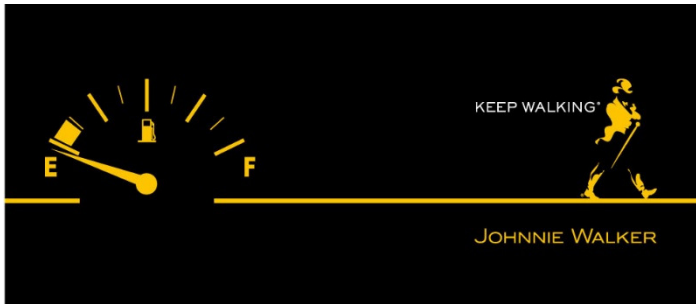
Fox



Crane



David Smith



WHAT'S IN A NAME #3

Most collectors will have a few bottles of Johnny Walker on their shelves. With the different colours and the variations within each colour they almost form a collection on their own. Unlike that other great Scottish brand, McDonalds, there actually was a Johnny Walker. He was born in 1805 near Kilmarnock, Ayrshire. The family started a grocery business in 1820 selling among other things whisky. Johnny Walker died in 1857 and it was his son Alexander (born 1836) who expanded the business concentrating on whisky sales. His biggest seller



was Walker's Old Highland Whisky. Due to law changes he trademarked the name Walker's Kilmarnock Whisky. From the early days the label was put on a slant and in the late 1870's the square rectangular was introduced. It has remained ever since.

Shortly after this Alexander brought his three sons into the business and it expanded greatly with offices in London and Sydney. In 1894 the Company bought the Cardhu distillery.

In 1909 the Red and Black labels were introduced. The Black Label was the old Highland Whisky and was one of the first to carry an age on the label.





Even at that time it was twelve years old. It was also at this time that the striding figure appeared on the labels. It was sketched on a menu card over lunch by the cartoonist Tom Browne. Shortly afterwards one of the directors came up with the slogan "Born 1820 - still going strong".

In 1923 the company went public and joined D.C.L. two years later. D.C.L. was bought by Guinness in 1986.



Guinness merged with Grand Metropolitan Hotels (a major hotel, brewing and spirits company) in 1997 and the current Johnnie Walker owner, Diageo, was formed. Diageo is the world's largest spirits company and Johnnie Walker one of it's 'Strategic' brands. Johnnie Walker was ranked as the leading alcohol/spirits brand worldwide in 2015, based on a brand value of US\$5.6 billion! Not surprising as they sell 108 million litres annually (the No2 brand is



Ballantine's who sell only 55 million litres).



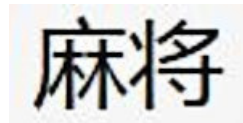
The Blue label appeared in 1992, with the Green and Gold labels appearing in 1997, although the gold label blend was devised for the centenary of the company (1920) but was kept for drinking at the distillery only. There are other labels such as Double Black (heavily peated), Platinum (replacing Gold in some markets, presumably because JW cannot get enough of the right malts to make enough Gold) and Swing (which has a high proportion of Speyside malts).

As they say, Lang mae their lum reek

Frank Wynne



MAHJONG



Yes these are bottles, ceramic bottles in fact (maybe), each containing 100ml of Chinese spirit at 53%. I came across them by accident on a Chinese web site. They are remarkably cheap but buying them has proved impossible. The site I found was only in Chinese but I was able to translate the text on it with Google. It appears to say that they sell them 5 at a time, at random. If I bought them I would want the set (probably 51 different ones, although Mahjong sets do vary a bit). I tried to find a way to email them, even going to the trouble of finding the Chinese characters for email in case the link was on a graphic. No joy there. I then tried to see if any other site sold them and did find one. The price was double but still very reasonable, although the postage was twice the bottle price and the postage cost per unit remained the same no matter how many I said I wanted (very unethical practice as postage does not work that way). This site also only seemed to sell at random, singly this time. However, there was a recognisable email so I asked "how much for a full set of 51 delivered?" To which the reply was "they can only be ordered at random!" Not good marketing.



Whilst looking for another company that sold the set above, I came across several other Mahjong sets, although only the above, this set, and the next two appear to be the so called ceramic ones. I say so called as the bottles look more like plastic and the two sets look the same apart from the trademark. Unfortunately these are for sale on the same all Chinese web site I found the first set on. Left and right are the one and five of bamboo. Below is the complete set of spots. All 53%, 100ml.





Yes, on the left is a third set, although I only have one photo. These also contain Chinese Spirit, this time at 45%, 100ml.

And on the right

is a fourth set, or part of it I should say. This set is from Guizhou Yelang, a company that also makes some great book bottles. These are filled with Maotai Town Spirit, 53%, 100ml.



Our next Mahjong set is in glass bottles, the green photo being the back of each. They are made by Doukan Liu Ling (there are more bottles from this company shown on MBL) and contain 100ml of Spirit at 46%. I have no way of knowing whether this is the full set or, as I suspect, there are many more (possibly 51)



Our final two sets are from Luzhou Laojiao. All the bottles contain 108ml of He Jiu Ying spirit at 52%. The 'blue' set is encased in cardboard whilst the 'green' set has the printing directly onto the bottles, similar to the Doukan Liu Ling set.

If anyone can find out how to buy any of the first four sets please let me know.



David Smith

WINES #1 - AUSTRALIA

Much of life is subject to fads and miniature bottle collecting is no exception. Single malt Scotches often fetch big money but Scotch blends are out of fashion right now and often sell for next to nothing. Most ceramics are also now selling for less than they did 20 years ago, as are most microminis. Tequilas were in fashion a few years ago, now it's vodka. Liqueurs are selling for ten a penny – almost literally!

One class of mini bottle that is not, nor ever has been, in fashion is Wines. These suffer for a number of reasons, not least because the wine often looks horrible in old bottles. Another factor is that most mini wines are not table wines and so do not spark the interest of committed wine drinkers (myself included!). I have only known one specialist mini wine collector. This was 20 years ago in New Zealand and he had a very good collection which, importantly, did not cost him much. Unfortunately that collection is long gone.



This is the first of a series of Wine articles that will run in parallel in the newsletters of the NZMBC and the MMBC. The text and range of bottles will be similar but the photos will be different in each newsletter.

The first 8 bottles I have to show you are all brands that eventually ended up, at least nominally, in the hands of Treasury Wine Estates. They date from the 1950's and 60's.

The Glenloth Reserve Port is undoubtedly the rarest of the bottles we are seeing today. Glenloth is a dot on the map in northern Victoria, Glenloth Wines have long gone. Most Australian wines are 2 1/2 fl.oz. (about 70ml), 2 2/3 fl.oz. (about 75ml) or 75ml



this one is 2 1/2 fl.oz. Lindeman's is one of the best known names in Australian wines. Founded in 1843 in the Hunter Valley in New South Wales, Lindeman's has been and remains primarily a table wine producer. However, like the majority of Australian wineries in the 1950's & 60's, it also did a large trade in fortified wines. The Montillo Cream Sherry is one of probably dozens of fortified wine minis from this period. I love the next bottle from Leo Buring and it's address of Ye Old Crusty Cellar, Sydney (although the winery is in South Australia). Leo Buring is another name still in use, again, only for table wines now. There does not seem to be many Leo Buring mini bottles around but I would expect a few more different types of Sherry to be out there somewhere.



Our next two bottles are both from Mildara of South Australia. Mildara was a prolific maker of miniature bottles, filled mainly with Port and Sherry but also with Brandy. The two Sherries, Oloroso and Rio Vista Medium Dry must be some of their last wine bottles as they are 75ml.

Penfolds is another prolific producer and, again, one still in the business. And one still making fortified wines. However, Penfolds real claim to fame is Penfold Grange, the most expensive Australian wine and one of the few international wines challenging the Grand Crus of France. The two bottles shown, Mantilla Medium Dry Sherry and Semi Sweet Sherry both probably date from the late 1960's.

Wynvale calls the barrel like bottle a Minum. For many years they only made Minums in 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ fl.oz. (nearly 200ml) – definitely not a miniature, although you do see them in some collections. Eventually they did make a 50ml version. Shown above is a 50ml Rose that probably dates from the early 1970's.

Accolade Wines is another company that has collected brands over the years. Our next 6 bottles are all part of that group.



Hardy's is another very well known Australian brand and one still being made under that name. The Tintara name is also the name of their South Australian winery. The first bottle, Champion Reserve Claret dates from the early 1950's, the Gold Label Port & Special Medium Sherry are 1960's bottles. The Glenview name has disappeared but they have left us some nice bottles, including the two shown, Muscat (1960's) and Madeira (1970's). I lived in Melbourne for a time in 1976 and Renmano wine was everywhere. It was the cheapest of cheap plonk, much of it sold in a bag-in-a-box. The Amontillado Sherry is probably from the 1960's.

I have barely scratched the surface of Aussie wines so I will bring you more in a future article.

David Smith

DAVID'S BOTTLES



I will start this quarter with the Americas and then move on to Europe. Our first flagon bottle is part of a set of 5 from Dry Country Distillery of Oregon. This one contains 50ml of Vodka at 40%. The others are Apple Pie, Black Rope Anise, Hot Spiced Rum and Key Lime Pie. The next 6 are all from Cuba in the 1930's. The first 3 were sold only in Cuba but the second three were US imports.



On the left we have some much more modern Cuban bottles. The Legendario Rum 'Elixir of Cuba' is a 40ml bottle at 34%. The Mulata set was sold 2-3 years ago. The first bottle is not a Rum, but an Aguardiente which some people consider light rum, but really isn't. Others think Cachaca is Rum, but it isn't either.

Our final Cuba bottle is at the start of the next four. Havana Club is from the mid 1930's. The next one is from when it switched to Puerto Rico (I guess ahead of Castro because the bottle is 1950's), the last two are fairly current. Now you mostly find plastic. Rumor among liquor people is that Havana Club will soon be imported again into the U.S. but with a new name, Havanista, or something like that.

The last bottle from the Americas is another new one I brought back from Mexico. It's supposedly

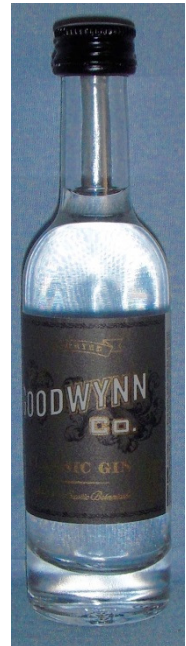
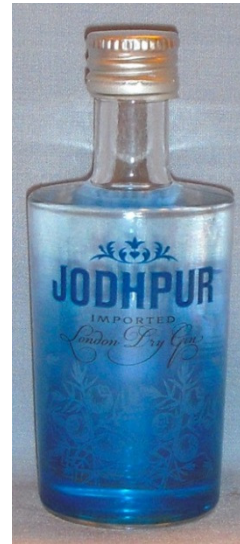




a special rum that only the King of Spain was allowed to drink. Even though the label says Cuba, it was made in Mexico.

Jodhpur is the first of our European bottles. This London Dry Gin is made in England for the Spanish market. Goodwynn Co. Classic Gin is French but, unlike the next few bottles, which were bought in London, this came from Total Wine Stores here in the US.

The two Cognac sets need no introduction, both ABK and Leyrat are well known Cognac Houses. The set of three are a Gin, Whisky & Vodka from The Lakes Distillery in England.



The bottle on the right is a new shape from Martin Miller Gin of England. Unfortunately I only photographed the back!

Now we go north of the border to Scotland. Ballechin is a heavily peated 10 year old single malt from the Edradour Distillery. On the left we have a new version of Nevis Dew from the Ben Nevis Distillery. This is a 50ml bottle with the Scotch being 12 year old at 40%. Both these Scotches are on sale in the US.



This is a new set of The Macallan single malt Scotches. To get them you have to buy the large bottle of Mario Castelli (famous photographer) Macallan. The empty packaging was sent as a separate parcel and weighed 77 pounds. I think Macallan has gone a bit nuts in the packaging department!



The three bottles on the left are all Russian Vodkas. The blue label is Bogorodskaya. This is 40%, 0.05 litre. The next two are both the same percentage and quantity. XXI Century Gold and Platinum Vodka are said to be gold and platinum filtered, respectively.

I've just got back from Alaska. Great trip...no bottles but I wasn't expecting any. I did see a large bottle of salmon infused vodka. Gad...what the hell does that taste like (salmon...he answered).

David Spaid



Just to fill the space, a few more Scotches (editor). This Alphabet set is a few years old now but not impossible to get as Scotches are well traded.

SUPER TEQUILAS

By Jim Crawford

Here are several Tequilas that I like to refer to as “Super Tequilas”. Most of these miniatures are no longer made, are very difficult to find, are very expensive, and all are great looking miniature bottles.

Topping my list are 2 **Gran Jubileo Tequila** sets. Issued in 2007, both of these tequila sets are extremely hard to find now.

Next is a very special set of **Frida Kahlo Tequila**. These minis were made in very limited quantities for a special fund raiser in Germany in 2012. The label design is fantastic, and the tall bottles are quite elegant. This set is impossible to find today.

Next is an impressive and expensive set of **Tequila Lay .925** minis, issued in 2008. The labels are fantastic looking, and there is a lot of real silver laying in the bottom of these bottles. When you shake these bottles, the silver sparkles throughout the mini while it settles back to the bottom. Once again these are impossible to find now.

Finally we have a set of **Alien Tequilas**. This set came out in 2010, and has a radiant, pearlized glass which give them an out of this world appearance. Unlike the other bottles shown, these minis are available, but it will take some time and effort to find a set that is available. If you do find a set, be prepared to pay a premium price.





DIA DE LOS MUERTOS



THE DAY OF THE DEAD



The 'Ladies' left and right were sent to me by David Spaid, as were some of the photos. There are actually only three 'Ladies' (they all represent Catrina or Katrina Queen of the Undead) but they are all painted individually so there looks like many more. All these contain 50ml of Tequila Extra Anejo from Cava de Oro but there is also a 750ml bottle.

Day of the Dead is a holiday celebrated in central and southern Mexico during the chilly days of November 1 & 2. Even though this coincides with the Catholic holiday called All Soul's & All Saint's Day, the indigenous people have combined this with their own ancient beliefs of honouring their deceased loved ones. They believe that the gates of heaven are opened at midnight on October 31st and the spirits of all deceased children are allowed to reunite with their families for a day. On November 2nd the spirits of the adults come down to enjoy the festivities that are prepared for them.



Beautiful altars are made in almost every home in most Mexican Indian villages. They are decorated with candles, buckets of flowers (wild marigolds & bright red cock's combs) mounds of fruit, peanuts, plates of turkey mole, stacks of tortillas and big Day of the Dead breads called Pan de Muerto. The altar needs to have lots of food, bottles of soda, hot cocoa and water for the weary spirits. Toys and sweets are left for the children, and on 2nd November, cigarettes and shots of Mezcal are offered to the adult spirits (spirits for spirits - I love it!). Little folk art skeletons and sugar skulls, usually purchased at open-air markets, provide the final touches.



Day of the Dead is a very expensive holiday for these self-sufficient, rural based, indigenous families. Many spend over two month's income to honour their dead relatives. They believe that happy spirits will provide protection, good luck and wisdom to their families. On the afternoon of 2nd November, the

festivities are taken to the cemetery. People clean tombs, play cards, listen to the village band and reminisce about their former loved ones.



The final photo is of the figures having their glaze 'fired' in a modern electric kiln.

David Smith

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## ***HAVE YOU GOT THE WITS? #2***

As promised, more tubes bottled by W.I.T. of Bordeaux. These are all tubes that were contract bottled (tubed?). They are a mixture of 4/5/6 & 10cl. I will let them speak for themselves.





I will show you more in miNiZ110. These, and many more, can be found on Miniature Bottle Library at <http://www.minibottlelibrary.com/mbl/alpha/themes/tube1.html> You will see that I have included no more than one tube from any company.

*David Smith*

# THE TIGER (aka TYGER)

Tyger, tyger, burning bright  
In the forests of the night,  
What immortal hand or eye  
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

In what distant deeps or skies  
Burnt the fire of thine eyes?  
On what wings dare he aspire?  
What the hand dare seize the fire?

And what shoulder and what art  
Could twist the sinews of thy heart?  
And when thy heart began to beat,  
What dread hand and what dread feet?

What the hammer? what the chain?  
In what furnace was thy brain?  
What the anvil? What dread grasp  
Dare its deadly terrors clasp?

When the stars threw down their spears,  
And water'd heaven with their tears,  
Did He smile His work to see?  
Did He who made the lamb make thee?

Tyger, tyger, burning bright  
In the forests of the night,  
What immortal hand or eye  
Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?





The poem is courtesy of William Blake, although he did not personally give permission as he died nearly 200 years ago. It is the first time miNiZ has published a poem, and probably the last!

The tiger on the ball is, of course, from Ski Country. Next is the curled up tiger from Global Whisky & Spirits. This tiger also can be seen with the Ochakovskaya label. The next tiger is common with the Garnier label but quite rare here with a Duca label. Niccolo made the tiger looking at us.

The first caricature tiger is from Famous Firsts. The second is a super rare sabre tooth tiger from the Flintstones set by Linfa Salus. The green tiger head is from an unknown Taiwanese company. Finally on the previous page is 'The Year of The Tiger' from Sam Seng. There are a number of variations of this.

On this page we have one really nice glass tiger from Fardeas. This has also been issued by Prunier. The next two are from Proshyansky and Merript, neither of which are very good examples of the glass blower's art.

*David Smith*

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## ***DATE, TIME & PLACE***

**Sunday 18th October 2015, 12.30pm** Pot Luck Lunch, Colin Ryder's, 20 Prospect Terrace, Johnsonville  
Telephone: 04 478 4391 E-Mail: [Colin](#)

**December 2015. Christmas Meal. Venue and Date TBA**

**Sunday 10th January 2016, 6.00pm** Barbecue at David & Rosie's, 11 Trevor Terrace, Paremata  
Telephone: 04 233 2997 E-Mail: [David](#)

### **Friday 19th - Sunday 21st February 2016 AGM Weekend in Christchurch**

**This weekend will be the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the most major of the Christchurch earthquakes.** Details to be advised but please, let's have a good turnout – **Christchurch is back.** All but one of our 'out of town' members missed the earthquake by a day or two in 2011. We cannot promise another earthquake but we can promise a good weekend.

**Other meeting dates and venues for 2016 will be decided at the AGM**