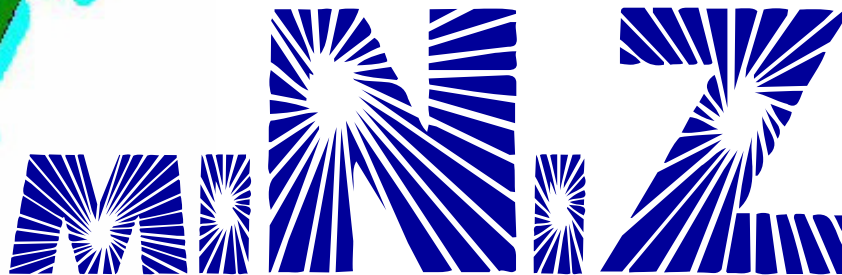
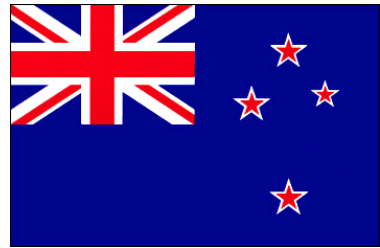
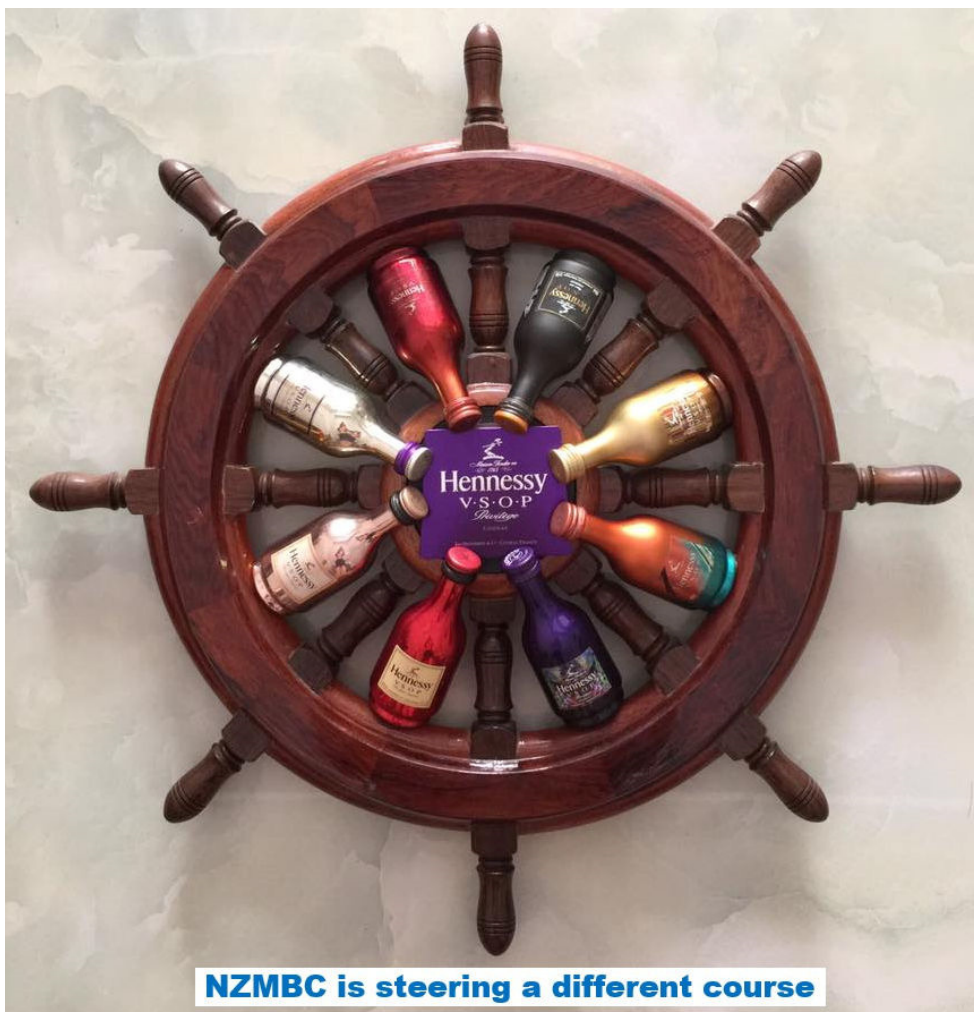


Issue 114

Summer/Autumn 2017



THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW ZEALAND MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



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

EDITORIAL

FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE Whether you whisper it or **SHOUT** it the word is the same. Membership of the club is now FREE – and will remain so for many years and hopefully forever. And free means free, not even a joining fee. This follows an overwhelming vote at the AGM in February.

So, why have we done this? **The primary driver was to increase our membership and thereby increase the number of members who can contribute to miNiZ.** miNiZ and the web site bind us together. It is vital that miNiZ thrives for the club to prosper long term. That means a contribution, at least occasionally, preferably regularly, from all members. We printed an article in Chinese in miNiZ113 and are prepared to print other articles in foreign languages but if at all possible articles will continue to be in English.

Clubs of all descriptions, worldwide, are experiencing a drop-off in membership and NZMBC is no exception. However, don't think that this is a measure taken out of desperation, far from it. We still have a viable membership and plenty of money in the bank to service the club's needs for a number of years. We have now stopped printing miNiZ (also as a result of an overwhelming vote at the AGM) as only 15 members still subscribed to the print edition and, of those, only two do not have email. Every printed copy of miNiZ costs the club far more than the member pays in their annual subscription. We have made special arrangements for the two members without email.

It was logical for us to become an on-line club, supplying miNiZ only by a download link, as this way the club now has almost no costs.

New members are very welcome (existing members please tell your collecting friends), all we need is your name, country you are from and email address. However, **it is vital that you inform us of any change in your email address** as this will, from now on, be the only way we have of contacting you.

I wanted to produce a new look cover for this edition of miNiZ to go with the changed direction of the club but unfortunately I have run out of time to do this. Any suggestions and/or graphics welcome and I will see if I can incorporate them in the new design of miNiZ115.

Why the green border? Because we no longer have to chop down trees to produce miNiZ!

David Smith

NEW NEW ZEALAND, THIS & THAT

I only have one new New Zealand bottle to show you this time. My thanks to Erica Mulder for the photo of Karven Dry Gin. However there are some bottles around that are new to NZ. I found these 4 new glass Skull bottles from Sangre de Vida of Mexico for sale in Capital Liquor, a Wellington bottle store. They should be available elsewhere in the country.



The red (\$18), white (\$15) and black (\$20) are three grades of Tequila, the green is a Mezcal (\$20).

Member Pete Gabbard asked me if I could get the following set for him. Pete lives in the USA but found bottles for sale in NZ that I had never even heard of. A bit of research found them for sale (including by mail order) at Ballantines, Christchurch. I later found them in Capital Liquor and they are also available in Auckland. These are various flavours of Royal Dragon Elite Vodka from Lithuania.



MBL has one Berrinche Tequila bottle on it. These are photos of four more sent to MBL by a Russian collector.

David Smith

AUCTION REPORT

RIP AS SEEN ON EBAY, hello **AUCTION REPORT**. The number of minis sold on Ebay plummeted when they banned the sale of full minis in most countries a few years ago. Increasingly the bottles we have shown you in As Seen On Ebay have actually been sold by another on-line auction, hence the change of name.

In this issue we have bottles from Whisky.Auction (UK), WhiskyAuction (Germany) and Ebay.



The two Hitler sets were made by Alpa of Italy for Vini Lunardelli, together with several more controversial sets. You can see another Hitler set, two Mussolini sets and a Che Guevara set on Miniature Bottle Library. The sellers of both these sets contacted MBL and asked what the value was. I advised a minimum bid of US\$80 (both were US sellers). The cardboard box set sold for a minimum bid of

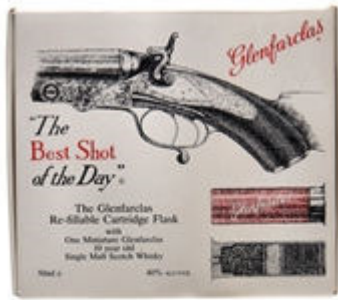


US\$79.95. The wooden box set listing was deleted by Ebay!

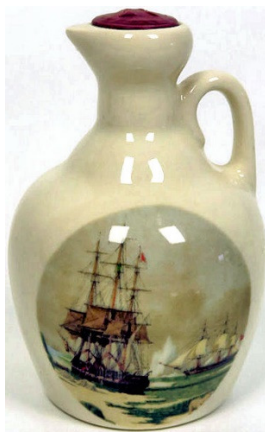
The three Old St. Andrews Barrels were sold as one lot for £6 – that is less than you would pay for one of these in Scotland.

Starting the next page we have an even worse (or better, depending on whether you are the seller or buyer) example of what can happen at an auction. The 6 Old St. Andrews golf balls also sold as one lot, this time for a mere £2.50!





The Glenfarclas 'The Best Shot of the Day' mini with empty shotgun shell sold for £55 – undoubtedly a good price for the seller. The Rutherford jug sold OK at €8 but it is probably worth a bit more as this is not from a common Rutherford set. The Camus Book sold for a respectable £60. There were two more sold at the same price. These are Limoges China so bidders often include Limoges collectors as well as mini bottle collectors.



The three Dupeyron Armagnacs are from a very large set stretching back to the 1868 vintage. They were sold together for £85

We start the next page with 3 Irish whiskies and one Welsh Whisky. The John Jameson sold for

more than I would have expected, £85. £30 bought the nice Tullamore Dew watch face bottle. Swynodon Welsh whisky sold for €8 – I would have expected more. The Cadenhead's 1949, 41yo cask strength Tullamore is the only non-Scotch bottle I know from Caddenheads - £60 bought it.



The Two rums above were sold as one lot for £30. This is a very respectable price for rums. I have always wondered why rum minis are not

more popular as many have great labels. Coming from Manchester originally, Yates

Brothers (Yate's Wine Lodges) is a familiar name. These two bottles sold for a disappointing £5. The three Japanese bottles all sold well. Nikka 10yo Single Cask £65, Suntory Hibiki 17yo €50, Kirin-Seagram Evermore 2000 £50.



It is rare for liqueurs to sell well with the exception of Italian Siglio (seal) bottles. Both the three Chartreuse and the Mandarinello Isobella are exceptions. £60 bought the Chartreuse and £20 Isolabella.

And on to Scotch...



The three Talisker single malts sold for €35. Three of the Kilchoman Sanaig single malts were sold separately at €30, €27 & €25. Excise Officer's Dram fetched €16, Glenfiddich Classic went for an



amazing €132. Less surprisingly The Last Drop bottle fetched £130

Next we have some Macallan's that went for truly big money.



£525

€1156

€1112



Sandy MacDonald is a 1950's bottle in great condition. £10 bought it. The US import Long John sold for £35 – a high price for a blend. Clynelish 12yo single malt is a Gordon & McPhail bottling. £45 seems a high price. The two Tomatin minis are 10cl. They sold for a very poor £6 for the pair. Glenglassnaugh 43yo highland single malt sold for €67.

Starting the next page the Dalwhinnie 8yo Pure Single Malt sold for an impressive €47. Red Hackle is a really nice 1950's blend, wired and with a cork top – a very disappointing £2 bought it. The 1983 Port Ellen is a Master of Malt bottle. The sale price of €123 seems very high. The two final Scotches are



German bottled (Krugers / Whisky Auction) 2006 Glentauchers - €12 & €10



KaVaLan Soloist is part of the Subkarma Collection of single malts from a highly regarded Taiwanese whisky distiller - €11 bought it. It is unusual to see a whisky, or indeed and spirit, from a Muslim country. Golf Club is from Jordan. €15 for this one.

“*RARE* Dr Pepper & Coca Cola Miniature Glass Bottles Mini Soda Coke Drink” – yeah, right! Believe it or not some idiot paid US\$25.99 (Buy it Now) for these two



VERY common sodas – plus postage.

Finally, the salt & pepper pair of Old Leidiger Brewing Co. Leidiger Select mini beer bottles sold for US\$360.99 after 19 bids.

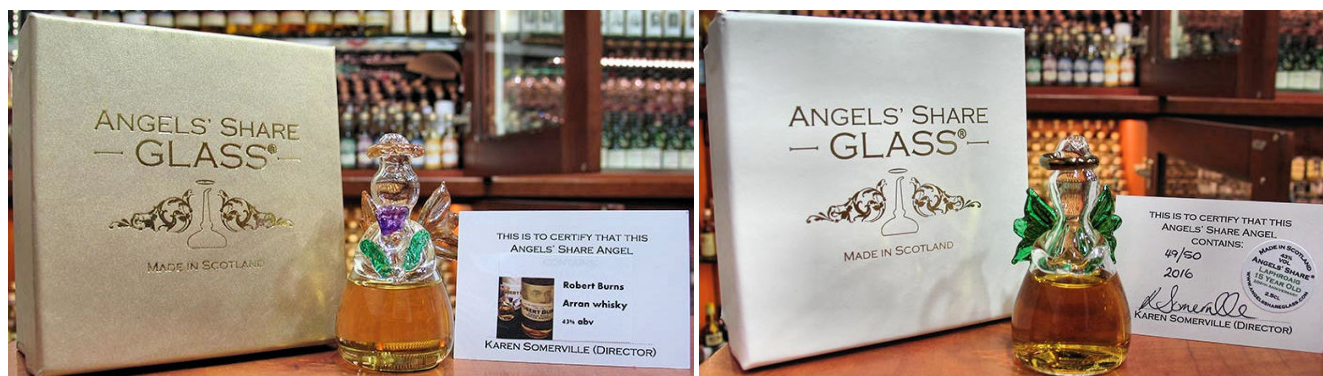
Another Auction Report in miNiZ115



David Smith (with additional photos by Peter Bonkovich)

THE ANGELS SHARE

In miNiZ107 & 108 we showed you some great blown glass minis which, at that time, we thought were made by Macallan as they were filled with Macallan malt. They were actually made by The Angels Share glass company, <https://www.angelsshareglass.com/> The angels we showed previously were the original ones but the range has expanded considerably, mostly with limited edition angels. Note that, at 2.5cl, these are smaller than they look in the pictures. Here are a few more, some from the web site and some found elsewhere.



Above: Robert Burns Arran Whisky, Laphroaig 15yo 200th Anniversary Malt, Macallan Estate Reserve Box A Malt, Macallan



Maker's Edition malt. Left: Set of 3 Deanston Malts. Right: Deanston 12yo Single Malt. Below: Port Ellen 1983





Top Row: Poppy Angel (unknown Scotch), Ireland (Irish Whiskey), Thistle (Arran Robert Burns Single Malt). Middle Row: The Arran Whisky Festival (Arran Single Malt), Glen Moray Single Malt, Saltire Angel (unknown Scotch). Left: Ae Fond Kiss (Deanston 15yo Single Malt).

Available at: <https://www.angelsshareglass.com/collections/angels>
There are a few different ones on the web site but not all of the above as some are limited editions. Keep a close watch on the site for limited editions. Not cheap but lovely.

David Smith

OLDER TAIWANESE

Some time ago I bought a collection, mainly for the Australian bottles in it. Also in the collection were these bottles from Taiwan Tobacco & Wine Monopoly Bureau, now known as TTL, a much less interesting name. I could not find most of these bottles anywhere on-line, although Miniature Bottle Library has ceramic bottles from TTL and a number of older straights.



Neil Atkinson

DAVID'S BOTTLES

I haven't as many new bottles to show you this time, but there are some good ones. As always I will let them, mainly, speak for themselves. We will start with some bottles from the USA.



MINIS

Our following fine expressions are available in 50mL mini bottles:

- California Silver Rum
- California Gold Rum
- California Silver 151 Rum
- Sunshine Orange Brandy
- Skyline Gin
- Traditional Aquavit





Stark Spirits describes itself as the first micro-distillery in Pasadena and the second in the Los Angeles metropolitan area.

Mr. Tom's Spirits hails from Fort Myers, Florida. The four bottles on the left are 50ml but they appear not to be current bottles. The tall bottles below are 100ml and the dumpy bottles the current 50ml ones.

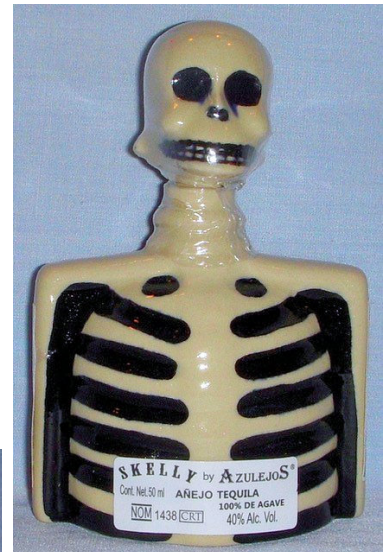






Ghost Dog is from Chambers Bay Distillery, Washington (State not DC), USA. The one on the left I found in a liquor store, the other, fatter bottle, is the 50ml bottle shown on their web site. The distillery also makes Greenhorn Bourbon and Ran Vodka, but not yet in miniature.

From south of the border we have two new ceramic Tequilas, Skelly by Azulejos and Dulce Amargura. The latter is a pair to the male with the top hat shown in miNiZ113



Starting the next page we have a set of 6 Fuentesca Reserva Tequilas at 7,9,12,15,18 & 21 years old. It is unusual to get a year/age statement like this on Tequilas. Long may it continue.





Crossing the Atlantic we have three new gin minis from Pickering's of Edinburgh. The Glengoyne set of three is new. It contains 10,15 & 18 year old single malt Scotches.



Scallywag, Rock Oyster and Timorous Beastie are three blended malts from Douglas Laing. All are small batch releases. Dunnett Bay Distillery is in Caithness in the far north of mainland Scotland. The vodka is the only one they make and the three shown are the only minis. There are however two more 700ml bottles, Rock Rose Spring Edition & Rock Rose Winter Edition so we may see a couple of other minis.

The Boodles & Sloane's gins are UK bottled, probably in England.

Crossing the Channel we arrive in Belgium where the boxed set of 5 Filliers gins on the next page came from.





Rueverte of France made the 9 Absinthes. We have seen a few companies using this attractive, and quality (not plastic!), square bottle. There are three more absinthe sets, as well as the three Armagnacs seen on the left. All (& many more minis) can be purchased from <https://www.absinthes.com/en/>

(The article finished here but then David sent some more photos. I was going to save these for miNiZ115 but then found some emails from David that I had 'filed' so there are quite a few more bottles to show you. Read on.... – editor)

We start the next page with a number of bottles from Mexico. The Four Kings were made by Calera, a name well known to mini collectors.



I can't tell you anything about Cantina Mexico, except that it is new. The next bottle is the Reposado of Joyas Mezcal. The Blanco is sold in Mexico, this Reposado is sold in California and maybe elsewhere in the US. The set of 4 decanter style minis is from Adictivo. These contain Tequila in differing grades: Plata, Reposado, Añejo and Extra Añejo. Finally for Mexico we have an unknown animal ceramic from Calera.



The four Irish Whiskies are new variants from Irish Distillers (Pernod Ricard). The Indiana Whiskey Co. pair are only sold in Indiana at present.

The next 5 bottles are all from England. Sipsmith London Cup is a punch. The One British is the first whisky to be released by the team behind The Lakes Distillery in Cumbria. As they only started producing whisky in December 2014 and don't have

their own whisky just yet, this is a blend of whiskies from around the British Isles that has got excellent reviews. East London Distillery made the three gins.



Three Scotches comprise of two new bottles from Glen Scotia and Fairy Flag from

Edradour. Death's Door Wondermint is a mint/absinthe based liqueur (apologies for the poor photo). Next is a nice blue label Cognac from Louis Royer. The three Hine tubes are a mere 15ml each.

More next time.



David Spaid

(with additional photos by David Smith)

Bottle Hunting in the Pacific Northwest

Ron Gabbard



As I mentioned in a previous article early on we discovered a distillery in the Fremont district of Seattle. Now the Fremont district is a quirky, Artsy area of Portland that is known to be, well, a bit unusual. The Fremont bridge is there with a giant rock Troll under it. You will find a giant statue (direct from Russia) of Joseph Stalin. There are also lots of interesting restaurant and shops in the Area. Every weekend they close down a couple of streets and have a Giant weekend market. Fremont Mischief Distillery seemed to fit into this place. The owners



seemed as interested in their bottles as they did in their product, No plastic Bottles here. They tried best they could to make the Mini bottles look as much like the full size as possible (which is the reason a couple of their products are not available in Minis) they started with Fremont Mischief Whiskey, Fremont Mischief Vodka and Fremont Mischief Gin (all available in minis) then then went on to John Jacobs whiskey (also available in minis) then Workers (Vodka (with a portion of the Proceeds going to the local Fireman's fund) Which is not available in Mini. They recently added Storm Tossed Rye, Dark Northern and Dark Northern Reserve Whiskey's to the mix (none of these are available in minis either. We continue to have discussions about adding these minis but only time will tell. They also did the 2015 and 2016 MMBC show bottles for us. The 1st generation of the Fremont Mischief brand had a crow on it since crows are generally none to cause some mischief, however the old crow brand contacted them and told them although they could use the rest the bottles they had purchased, they would need to take away the crow since it was a copyright infringement. That image was replaced with a woman sitting on the moon in the 2nd generation bottles. They Also changed the covers of the capes from time to time offering them in Black, Silver and Red. I know a few collectors that managed to get all of the different colors as well as the different label combinations. Me, I'm happy just having one of each bottle (I did get the crow and the Woman versions, just didn't care about cap colors). Till next time....Happy Hunting.



WINES #5A – PORTUGAL

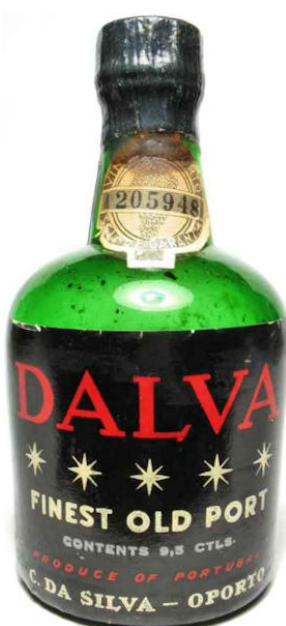
Portugal is, of course, synonymous with Port – I won't disappoint you, although we cannot forget Portugal's second international wine, Madeira which I will start with.



The two Barbeito Madeiras, Island Rich and Island Dry show how the labels have evolved only a small amount over the years. Note the unusual 56ml size of these. Sercial is a grape used on Madeira to make dry wine. Casa dos Vinhos is an older 'Superior Rich Malmsey.' This is the opposite of Sercial. Malmsey (also known as Malvasia or Malvazia) is the sweetest version of Madeira, made by stopping the fermentation. Funchal Wine Company hails from the town of Funchal, where many other Madeira producers are located. The unusually named Rainwater is their medium dry. This is a US import bottle. Henriques & Henriques is probably the best known name in Madeira. The second H&H bottle was made for Air Columbus.

Starting the next page we have a pair of 'Alphabet' bottles from Companhia Vinicola de Madeira. I don't know whether there is a complete alphabet but there are at least four more letters. The Sercial with the raffia top is also from Companhia Vinicola de Madeira. Most Madeira does not have an age statement on. Miles and Leacock's are both 5 year old Dry Special's. The final bottle in the row is a 'Boal' from Vasog Ibis Pereira – or at least I think that's what it says.

No article on Portuguese wine would be complete without Mateus Rose. Many collections have bottles of Mateus that are over mini size in them but this one is 3.4oz, about 95ml. Also well known is Isabel Rose from C. da Silva. Again, often larger bottles of this find their way into mini collections. This one is 3oz, about 84ml. Most of these do not show a vintage but this one is from 1968. Borges Trovador is our third well known Portuguese rose.



It's about time we had some Port. I will continue writing about Ports in a second article on Portuguese Wines in the next edition as we cannot do Ports justice in a page and a half. Both articles will ignore Ports not bottled in Portugal, of which there are many.

The first two Ports, 'Fine Douro Port, Five Crown' and 'Dalva 5* Finest Old' are also from C. da Silva. Burmester is a shipper I do not know but I do like the screen



printed bottles if they are done well, as this one is.

To the left we have two Barros Ports, an older Ruby and a NZ import Vintage Character. Two Calem's follow, White & Dry and Old Friends Fine Tawny with the picture of.. er.. old friends.

Cruz make a range of Ports and if you collect variations you have to watch for changes in the bottle, as well as the label. The labels of the first two Tawnys are the same but the neck of the bottles are different. This appears to be the case across their range. There are at least three other bottle shapes used, the White Port being an example. I know nothing about Caves de Porca and have only ever seen two pictures, this Tawny and the White in the twin article.



Our final two Ports this time are from Ferreira. Both are Ruby but the second one is in a *plastic* bottle. Port in plastic?! Whoever came up with this idea should be burnt at the stake!

In the next issue we will look at some of the largest players in the Port industry. I have a feeling that I will also need to write a third Port article as I have hundreds of good photos I can show you.



David Smith

~~~FOUND ON-LINE~~~

I have come across a few bottles on-line in the last three months that I would like to share with you. I would like to make this a regular feature and would welcome contributions. Bottles can be either new, rare or unusual.



The Macallan was bottled especially for the first anniversary of the SLC, the Saigon Liquor Club, in 2016.



Lighters with a bottle in them encased in plastic are not at all uncommon but this one is both a different shape (they are usually just tall and square) and contains a Crown Royal, a bottle I have not seen encased this way before.



The three London Underground Series jugs are from a limited edition of only 30 of each. They contain 5cl of 10yo Macallan Single Malt.

Scotch.



The blown glass tulips are from Fantasy of Japan. There are also blue and yellow versions.





No these are not three Camus Limoges books you have not seen before. They are Chinese 'look alike' filled with Chinese 'Cognac.' La Gioconda is, of course, the proper name for the Mona Lisa.

Absinthe des Monats is a set made, and sold on-line, by Alandia of Germany. The five bottles come complete with the glass, spoon etc.

Absinth des Monats



The stack of three 50ml bottles is from Merripit of Hungary. They make lots of great blown glass bottles, many filled with Hennessy Cognac. The three bottles here are filled with Grant's and Balantine's Scotches and Jack Daniels Tennessee Whisky.



+Gratis:

Finally we have the 90ml golf ball from Kwei Chow Moutai Co. of China. Made for a golf tournament.





The two bottles ending the last page and the ones either side are for sale on a Chinese web site. Unfortunately it is, of course, in Chinese, a language that is worse than Double Dutch to me!

<https://hzhyi.world.taobao.com>

I have not tried to buy any of the bottles. If anyone works out what you need to do let me know. The pair of bottles, contents unknown are for sale for ¥80 (about NZ\$16.50). The triple Chengyu bottle on the left is a very reasonable ¥68 (about NZ\$14.00). The 'Book' (if that is what it is) was made for The Second Session of the Guang Dong Mini Bottle Club in 2012. Rather dear at ¥388 (about NZ\$80.00).



The four Leopold Eiffel Tower Brandy XO's are painted glass bottles from France. I found these pictured on the Saigon Liquor Club site.

The blown glass stork is Italian but it was found on a South American web site. It contains Grappa. The set of 6 birds contains Pisco from Abolengo of Peru.



Send me some more photos for **FOUND ON-LINE** in the next miNiZ.

David Smith

SCOTCH ON MBL

We have been working for many months now on the Scotland section of Miniature Bottle Library. This is, of course, mainly Scotch bottles. We have been keeping this section separate from the main Straights database but it is on-line with probably about half of our Scotch photos processed. Some collectors have found this area using the Word Search feature of MBL and have asked for easier access. It is easy to find the Scotches, simply click on the copyright statement at the bottom right of the Home page. Micky Mouse I know but this is not yet officially a public area. When it is the copyright link will go and Scotland will be incorporated into the main Straights database.



David Smith

MY FIRST BOTTLE

I started to collect miniatures in 1972. Earlier that year I had emigrated from Scotland to London and ended up near Heathrow Airport. After a few months I had a secondary job in a pub. The pub had an Off-Licence (bottle shop) with a few miniatures. I was hooked.



My first bottle was a Cornish Liqueur Mead produced by the Cornish Mead Company. It is a three sided glass bottle. The front side is smooth but the other two have small square dimples. The alcohol is not less than 30%. (There are at least a dozen other 'straights' by Cornish Mead Co. but they are not yet on MBL, however, 46 ceramics are – editor)

As an aside. The pub was one side of Heathrow Airport and I lived on the other. I sometimes missed the last bus so had to walk home. The quickest way was through the airport and sometimes I was held up as a 747 was towed to or from the hanger 20 feet in front of me. I do not think it would be allowed these days with the tight security.

UNUSUAL GIN

In the previous issue David mentioned that Gin was becoming trendy again. Here is another one. Most whisky collectors will have bottles produced by the makers of the Botanist. It is produced by the Islay distillery, Bruichladdich. There is an older or newer version on MBL (I don't know which) so I have shown this also. Both are glass bottles at 46% alcohol. This is the second gin I have seen recently produced by a Scottish distillery. Is there a trend starting?



FEW PRODUCTS

Walking around a liqueur store I came across some full sized bottles produced by FEW Spirits. They are a Chicago based company and I was wondering if any of our USA based members know if they produce miniatures. The reason for asking is that FEW are my initials and the bottles would look good in the cabinets. I will be happy to meet all expenses for the bottles and postage.

Frank Wynn

Europe

Last year I and some friends had a most enjoyable barge trip on the Rhine & Danube. Here are the bottles I picked up along the way.



The first 5 photos are of Austrian bottles.



To the left and right are bottles from Germany.





On the far left is a bottle from Slovakia. At left is a Hungarian blown glass bottle from Merripit.

Dianne Opie

2017 AGM

As mentioned earlier in miNiZ, the two motions put to the AGM passed by an overwhelming majority (only 3 votes against both motions). So membership is now free for the foreseeable future and miNiZ is now only published electronically.

The web site has been changed to reflect the changes and, although we have given the free membership no publicity yet, we have already had some new members. A warm welcome to them.

Talking of the web site, the club has a sale of our bottle stocks. Prices have been slashed – have a look: <http://www.minisnz.com/pnmbcforsale.html>

The Committee for 2017/8 is as follows:

President: Colin Ryder, 20 Prospect Terrace, Johnsonville, Wellington, New Zealand
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miNiZ Editor & Webmaster: David Smith, 11 Trevor Terrace, Paremata, Porirua, 5024, New Zealand
+64 4 233 2997 E-Mail: minizv@gmail.com

2017 Meetings

Sunday 9th April, 12.30, Pot Luck Lunch @ Ken & Malee Chin's – address above
Sunday 16th July, 12.30, Pot Luck Lunch @ David & Rosie Smith's – address above
Sunday 17th September, 12.30, Pot Luck Lunch @ Ian Butcher's – address above
Sunday 12th November, 12.30, Pot Luck Lunch @ Errol & Karen's – address above