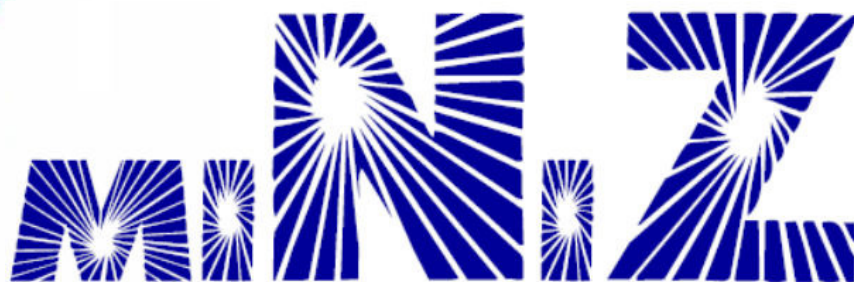


Issue 119 - Winter 2018



WWW.MINISNZ.COM

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW ZEALAND MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



Australasia's International Miniature Bottle Club



NEW NEW ZEALAND, THIS & THAT

Thanks to Erica Mulder we have the cover bottle photo, Lighthouse Gin, and the following new New Zealand bottle photos.

Waitui single malt Manuka honey whiskey (note the E) is from Kiwi Spirit Distillery in Golden Bay. It is expensive but thankfully not as expensive as their Te Kiwi blue agave spirit I showed you in a previous miNiZ. Te Kiwi is another label from the same distillery.



Now, I need a little help. For the next miNiZ I want to write an article showing symbols found on bottles and what they mean. This sort of thing:



although these are fairly obvious re-cycling symbols. I admit to not knowing what quite a lot of the symbols mean. I told someone that an elongated **D** on a bottle used to mean it was for sale in the French market. He asked “what does it mean” and I couldn’t, and still can’t, answer that. So, what do you know? Or what symbols can you identify (and what do they mean of course)? Please get the information to me by mid-October, preferably with an image of the symbol.

I forgot to show you the Mid-West show bottle for 2018. Consider the error corrected. On the subject of the MMBC Show, why not go next year? That will be the 40th anniversary and so the show should be an especially good one. There will be many thousands of bottles on the tables and you will get to meet collectors from all over the world. Best of all? Admission is free and the show hotel is a reasonable price by US standards. Details here:

<http://www.midwestmbc.com/>

Whoops! The picture on the right shows what happens when a Bourbon barrel aging warehouse decides to collapse. This happened on June 22nd at the Barton 1792 Distillery and, fortunately, nobody was inside at the time. As you can see in the next photo, only part of the warehouse collapsed sending about 9,000 out of



18,000 barrels crashing to the ground. Some of the barrels split open but many will be recoverable. I visited this distillery about four years ago and can recommend the tour which is more genuine than most. As this is only one of 29 warehouses on the site it should not overly affect their production.



Want to buy a distillery in Bonnie Scotland? What about buying Cutty Sark? No, not the clipper ship in the National Maritime Museum in London, the Scotch brand. Long associated with London wine merchants, Berry Bros. & Rudd, Cutty Sark was



bought by Edrington group only 8 years ago and now they want to sell to concentrate on their other brands. They also want to sell the Glenturret Distillery, one of the oldest in Scotland.



Now for something really creepy. Australia is known for it's spiders, especially the poisonous ones. d'Arenberg has unveiled a 50 year old, 100ml, limited release fortified wine called Daddy Long Legs Extra Rare. The only thing this spider is poisonous to is your wallet. You get the bottle and the spider shaped holder for A\$500 but only from the cellar door, so add on the cost of flights etc.



Progress continues with Miniature Bottle Library, <http://www.minibottlelibrary.com/mbi/index.html> We have just completed England (4000+ bottles, although some of those had been incorrectly shown under Scotland). Other recent additions include Namibia, Faroe Islands, Canary Islands, Azores, Madeira, Channel Islands & Isle of Man. Other than Namibia these are all self governing territories of other countries, in fact the Isle of Man has the world's second oldest parliament (after Iceland).

The next miNiZ may be a little late as I am overseas until mid-October. It is also dependent on YOU sending me some articles or other material.

David Smith

STOP PRESS: The rest of the barrel ageing warehouse has now collapsed!

JAMES CRAWFORD

JIM

9th April, 1942 - 23rd June, 2018

A very special man has passed after a brief illness. A very, very special friend, probably not just to me. Many, many collectors of miniature bottles throughout the world would include Jim as a Friend.

The passing of a very special person is often likened to the falling of a mighty tree in the Forest. In New Zealand we would liken it to the falling of the mighty but rare Kauri Tree and without doubt Jim was a very special and rare man and the comparison is totally valid - a real MAN!

I (Ian Butcher) first met Jim and Nancy some 25 years ago when I was visiting my Daughter in Kentucky and we took a trip up to Cincinnati, Ohio. It was here that I was introduced to an amazing collection of miniature bottles in a very large room beneath the home of the Crawfords where we were made very welcome. It was there I received the plans for a different method of displaying my collection that allows far more bottles to be seen.

It was on this first visit that I was made aware of his Passion with a capital P - to collect a miniature bottle from every country that had ever distilled and bottled a miniature. I believe there are only a couple of known gaps. It was also on this visit that I was able to point out to Jim that the bottle he had representing New Zealand was not actually from this country (it was bottled in Wellington, Canada) and I was subsequently able to send a New Zealand bottle to correct the error.



Jim was one of the most unbelievably generous and thoughtful people I have ever met - he never forgot my birthday or Christmas and I always received a box of bottles at those times. He never expected anything in return and was well aware that we have few bottles available from New Zealand that were of interest to him and, although I did send what I could, the traffic was decidedly one-sided.

Jim and Nancy visited New Zealand in 2001 and stayed with us in Whitby where I lived at the time. Jim found the New Zealand Maori place names to be more than a tongue twister so he changed some of the local towns from Waikanae, Paraparaumu and Paekakariki to W-town or P-town respectively

On my second visit to the show in St Louis I spent a couple of nights in Cincinnati on route. Jim and I spent a lot of that time down in the bottle room and Nancy commented that all she heard emanating from downstairs were great guffaws of laughter. This was because Jim and I had a very similar weird sense of humour - some might say it was a little warped but really close friends can banter with each other in a different manner than between others.

On that trip I took a number of New Zealand bottles with me to sell and Jim insisted on pricing them and that I use his table to sell them. I was somewhat surprised with some of the prices being up to twice what I had paid for them but they all sold in very quick time and with the benefit of the exchange variance I was able to purchase a much better selection than would have happened otherwise!

Jim always paid my sub to the Mid-West Miniature Bottle Club and I paid his New Zealand Miniature Bottle Club sub and I always received a show bottle from every St Louis show. With the advent of Skype Jim and I spent many an hour or more chatting, Jim showing me his latest acquisitions that had been collected on the numerous trips they made around USA and beyond.

Jim helped me obtain all the Hoffman Mr Lucky set but he was very upset when he thought he had obtained the rare Rockwell Paints Mr Lucky miniature only to find that it had been totally smashed in transit when it arrived at his door.

Jim made a huge contribution to the Miniature bottle clubs to which he belonged with numerous



articles for their respective magazines. He was both a past President and Membership Officer for the Mid-West Mini Bottle Club and attended almost every one of their shows, helping with the organisation of many and roping in Nancy to serve on the door. He could always be relied on for an article when one of the club magazines was a bit thin on contributions. He was also one of the first overseas members of the New Zealand Miniature Bottle Club.

One thing I know for absolute fact - Jim had a very strong Faith in God and an amazing love of his lovely Wife Nancy, his three lovely Daughters, their Spouses and his Grandchildren. He had miniatures made especially for the birth of his eight Grandchildren, with a photo of the baby on each of them. He sent me one every time

and had miniature bottles made for each of my own five Grandchildren. I have conveyed my sympathy to the family and I know they can very proudly celebrate his life and reflect into the future on the legacy he has provided.

What else can you say about such a Man. I have no doubt there are lots of stories that others can tell. All I know is that he was one of that special breed and I for one will miss our skypes, I will miss my dear and special friend.

I would bet that the first action for Jim in Heaven will be to obtain a miniature with a label - Distilled & Bottled in Heaven. It would be the pinnacle of his collection!

Rest in Peace Mate

SINGLE GRAIN WHISK(E)Y

Public opinion puts grain whisky at the bottom of the heap. It forms the base for blended whisky and people say the more malt whisky in the blend the better it tastes. Just as some people say some grape varieties are only good for blending, such as Grenache, if you give them some bells and whistles they make a palatable and sometimes very good drink.

As will be seen below, some famous malt whisky producers also make grain whisky, although there are only six dedicated grain whisky distilleries in Scotland. Unlike a lot of malts, no peat is used in the making of grain whisky.



The most famous single grain whisky is Cameron Brig. The distillery was built in 1824 at Markinch in Fife. The distillers were John Haig & Co. and grain distilling began in the 1840's. It is now a large complex

owned by Diageo and most of the production goes into blends. Cameron Brig is a rare mini but if someone has one for sale or swap please let me know.



Greenore was for a while the only single grain whiskey in Ireland. It was produced by Cooley Distillery, which the



Teeling family built in 1988.

This distillery has both pot stills and a continuous still (shown), with the latter used for Greenore. The brand is now owned by Beam Suntory and alas is no more as the whiskey now forms part of Kilbeggan 8yr old, although a Teeling Single Grain does appear now and again. Greenore is the port where the grain is shipped into.



William Grant and Sons produce Glenfiddich, Balvennie and whisky under their own name. They also own a grain distillery at Girvan in Ayrshire. The distillery was built in 1963 to



supply the grain whisky for their own blends, especially Standfast. The distillery is massive, covering 700 acres and producing 110 million litres of alcohol per annum. If the photo of the stills resembles and oil refinery it is not a coincidence as the process, using the Girvan Process continuous vacuum still, is not dissimilar.

A small percentage of Girvan has been released as a single grain and named



Blackbarrel. The name comes from barrels that have received extra charring. The whisky may have first appeared in 1995 but is no longer produced. One strange fact is that William Grant & Sons spell the name as one word but independent bottlers spell it as two words.



The Invergordon Distillery is situated in North East Scotland and opened in 1961. After a few changes in ownership it is now operated by Whyte and Mackay. A 10yr old single grain was released in 1991 but this is no longer produced. Some independent bottlers produce a single grain Invergordon but the whisky is highly regarded by blenders so there is not much left for them to use. This is probably because they use

Coffey stills. This is the original continuous still and does not use a vacuum. It is commonly, but not exclusively, used for distilling Irish

Whiskey, Bourbon and Armagnac.



Japan has a single grain whisky, Kirin Gotemba 15yr old, but I cannot trace a miniature of this. If you have one please send me a photo. This distillery dates from 1972 and sits in the shadow of Mount Fuji. It uses both pot and continuous stills but I don't know which has been used for their single grain whisky.



Frank Wynn





WORLD CUP

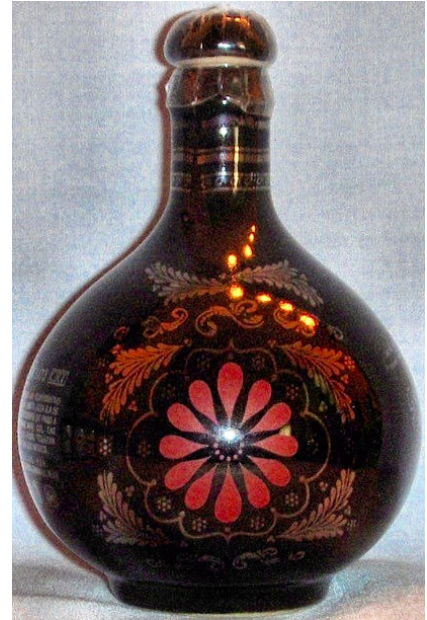
As I write this the World Cup is on (note to our American readers, unlike your 'World Series' almost every country on earth takes part in this) and I could not let the fact go by. So, we have a ball, two versions of the Jules Remy Trophy and a selection of great footballers (note to our American readers, again, NOT soccer players) of yesteryear.



David Smith

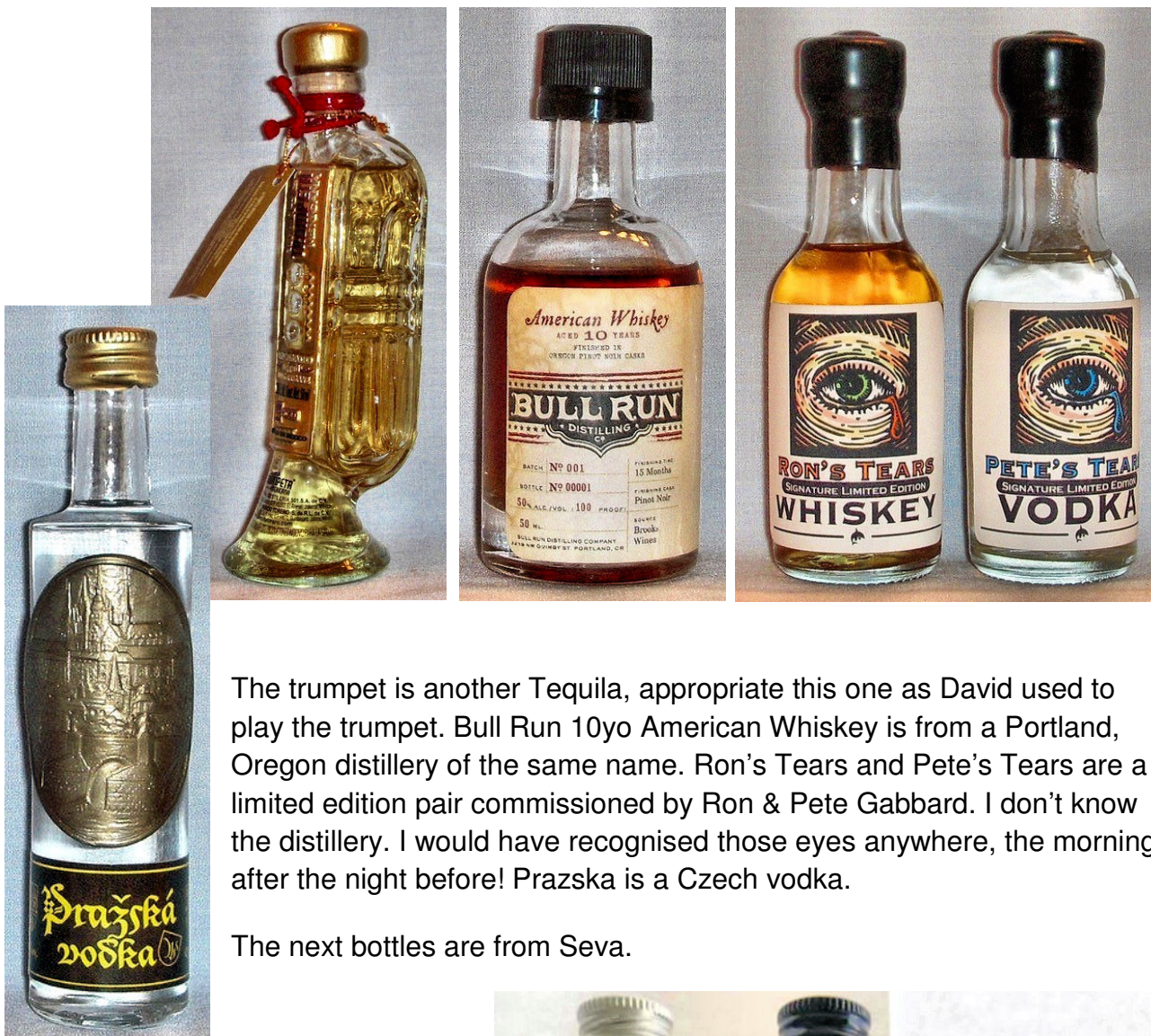
DAVID & SEVA'S BOTTLES

David Spaid has not sent many photos this time due to being indisposed much of the time since we last published. Seva Trakhtman sent me some photos of new bottles so I hope I will be forgiven for combining the information in one article. We will start with David's pics which, as usual, will largely speak for themselves.



These 11 are, of course, all Tequilas.





The trumpet is another Tequila, appropriate this one as David used to play the trumpet. Bull Run 10yo American Whiskey is from a Portland, Oregon distillery of the same name. Ron's Tears and Pete's Tears are a limited edition pair commissioned by Ron & Pete Gabbard. I don't know the distillery. I would have recognised those eyes anywhere, the morning after the night before! Prazska is a Czech vodka.

The next bottles are from Seva.



On the left is One with Life Tequila, which is a US import from Mexico.

Barrister is a new English Gin, of which there are many being produced now. Gin is 'Trendy.' These ones are on sale in both the UK and Russia



We start the next page with a pair of hard to buy English Gin & Vodka minis from D1 London Spirits Distillery. Daringly Dry London Gin and Daringly

MADURO TRAVEL

I forgot to include these in miNiZ118. Collector, Diederik Hemmes, who specialises in building minis, sent me these photos in February. Diederik wrote "I don't know how old these are. They are bottles made for Maduro Travel by Dutch Antilles Ceramic and filled by Senior with Curacao liqueur. Of the 15, 13 are country houses. Some actually were plantation houses. But on Curacao you should not expect too much since whatever plantations were there were small. Nothing compared to the big plantations in the south in the US. The other 2 are city houses in the rich folks neighbourhood. I don't know whether the series is complete. I have seen occasionally a single house for sale, but I was able to get my hands on this collection of 15." All contain Senior Curacao, 120cc, 62 proof, 31%

I contacted Maduro Travel but nobody there now knows anything about these bottles. They referred me to Senior from whom, despite several emails, I never got a reply. I did find one of these on-line and it is a colour variation, so there may be more.





David Smith

WILLIAM EDWARDS COLLECTION

This was a limited edition full chess set which was commissioned directly by the distillery to the designer. I was fortunate to meet the creator many years ago, in a little village called Woodhall Spa in Lincolnshire, who allowed me to purchase both some completed and unpainted versions of his design. The company is predominately a Bone China manufacturer, general crockery, plates, bowls and cups.

The three pictured are all full with original seal intact. I do have more stored away, both full and empty (never filled due to minor flaws) however I am not in possession of a full set. In fact I am yet to see a complete painted set. I am peeved that I didn't buy all stock he had at the time. After many years of trying to find and acquire the missing pieces (even to this day unable to google them) I am now ready to share these with the outside world.



If anyone has any of these for sale please contact me.

The final picture shows the retail version which was found on-line by David Smith.

Paul Ekins

And if anyone has any more photos I need them for Miniature Bottle Library - David

SCOTTISH NAMES

Some collectors hate these bottles, some love them. They are a miniature (50ml) but some would say not a true miniature as there is not a 750ml bottle with the same label, although that would apply to many, many miniatures. I am a collector who likes them, although not being a Scotch collector, I would not collect them. I do however collect personalised Beam bottles. This is the first of several articles on personalised bottles. The series will include at least Wedding Favours and Company bottles.

There are three sets I know of, The Clan Dram, The Clansman & The Clan Malt. There are at least five label variations of the latter, plus The Clan Blend which is owned by the same company. The latest version of The Clan Malt/Blend seems to only be sold as a personalised bottle with any name you want on it, Scottish or not. I will let samples of each speak for themselves.





The Clan Dram bottles are all blends.

I believe that this is the original The Clan Malt set but I only have 5 pictures. All contain 10yo single malt.



The second and third rows of The Clan Malt above show two variations, note the belt and compare the cat in the centre of the two Smith bottles.



AS far as I can tell the ones above are the last The Clan Malt bottles made as a set for sale in Scottish souvenir shops. The bottles are now made to order with whatever names you want. Templates for these bottles, both a malt and a blend, are shown on the right.

Dozens more of these bottles can be found on Miniature Bottle Library, <http://www.minibottlelibrary.com/mbl/index.html> Chose Straights then Scotland. I also know of many more The Clan Malt bottles we do not have pictures of. A list of these can be found at the same URL. We do not have a similar list for the other sets but we are sure there are many more – PICTURES PLEASE.

David Smith



A LESSON FOR WEBMASTERS

Earlier this year I was updating the club web site, including checking links for the other Mini Bottle Clubs. When I clicked on the Italian Club site I got a site selling football journeys. I checked and the URL shown was correct. I thought the site had been hacked and emailed a contact in the Italian club to find out what had happened. It appears whoever was responsible in the club forgot to renew the domain name and it was picked up by the football jersey selling company. This company has nothing to do with the club or miniature bottles but it has picked up an address that has a lot of traffic and links to it. These scumbags will use the URL at least until traffic drops off but never allow the club to use it again. The Italian Club does still have a Facebook page and that is linked from both NZMBC & MBL.



Guess what the title of this article is? I love skulls, particularly the one on top of my neck, I don't know what I would do without it!

I have 19 different skulls in my collection but there are more than 60 on Miniature Bottle Library. Quite a number of them use the same bottle and you do have to be careful when looking for these as there are a lot of 200ml skulls around in the same shape as the green one to the left of the central skull bottle above. 350ml skulls are also fairly common, although the capping usually gives these away.

We will start with the only skulls that have been available in NZ (and there are still some in the bottle stores if you search for them).

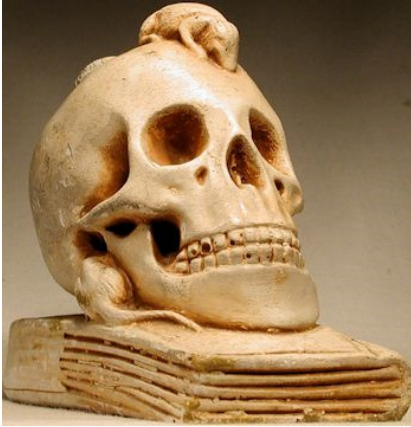


Crystal Head is probably the best known skull. This is filled with (terrible) vodka by Globefill of Canada. Elements Spirits makes the three coloured skulls filled with Kah Tequila. These were originally filled in the US but may now be filled in Mexico. The painting varies considerably as does the capping. There are at

least three sets of three, two made of glass and one of ceramic. The easiest way to tell is if you turn them over. Both glass and ceramic are shown – see MBL to find out which is which and to see five more.

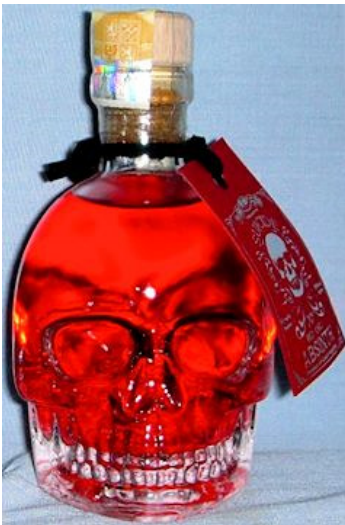
The blue and gold skulls are from Campeny of Spain. These are part of a set of 8 with different contents. The middle skull at the top of the page is an older Campeny bottle, as is the skull with



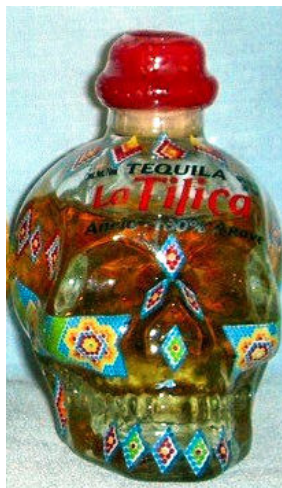


the book and mouse.

The skull with the purple eyes is from Global Whisky & Spirits of Germany. It is one of a set of at least five, with different coloured eyes, all of which contain 5cl of Noble Vodka. The skull below is full of some sort of honey drink from Croatia but, as to who made it, can anyone tell me?

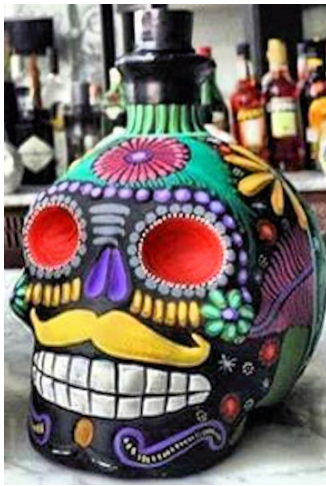
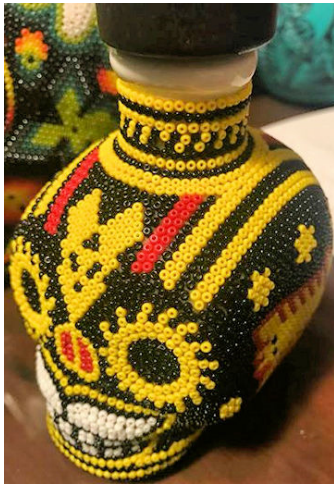


The red and purple skulls are from Suicide of the Czech Republic. The Red Chilli Absinthe is part of the original set sold as Gothic Absinthe. The purple is part of the up-to-date set of five which have different coloured absinthes in them. Below we have a set of three skulls containing different grades of Tequila from La Tilaca of Mexico. Also below is a skull on a bottle from Haman of Germany.



Our first picture on the next page is another Czech one, this time from Hills Distilleries. It contains 0.05 litre of Euphoria 100 Thujone Absinth and contains a sprig of leaves.

The other skulls on the next page are all from Mezcal Mitologica of Mexico – no prizes for guessing what these contain. Note that some are painted and others covered in beads. The painting/patterning varies greatly.



As always, if you know of any more, PHOTOS PLEASE. (Also if you have better photos)

David Smith

XX

Date - Time - Place

Sunday 28th October, 12.30pm, Pot Luck Lunch @ Errol & Karen's, 39 Pembroke Street, Tawa

December lunch - TBA

Sunday 20th January 2019, 6.00pm, Annual Barbeque @ David & Rosie Smith's, 11 Trevor Terrace, Paremata

Currently only Wellington meetings are being scheduled, our members elsewhere are invited to organise a meeting. Let us know where and when well in advance and we will be happy the publicise it.

The 2019 AGM will be on the 17th February. There will be a barbecue lunch starting at 12.30 with the AGM about 2.30 @ Colin & Di Ryder's, 20 Prospect Terrace, Johnsonville, Wellington.