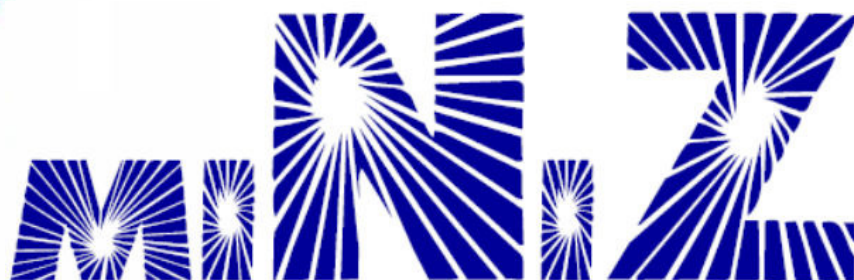


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## THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW ZEALAND MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



**Australasia's International Miniature Bottle Club**



# NEW NEW ZEALAND, THIS & THAT

Our cover bottles this month were found by Frank Wynn. They are a pair of new NZ bottles from Scapegrace Gin, Small Batch and Small Batch Gold. I'd never heard of them and so looked up their web site:

*"Two guys from New Zealand who didn't know each other until one married the others sister and then they did. A year sitting in bars and lounges discussing how they always wanted to make their own gin. This is how two brothers-in-law and a part time musician got into a lot of debt and created a gin that won gold in London and San Francisco. 12 botanicals, nature's wild apostles. Water, torn from the earth 80 years after it was hurled down on New Zealand's Southern Alps. A whisky still, 19th century, stumbled upon in a long abandoned shed. These are our ingredients."*

Glengarry is the distributor so NZ members should be able to get them.

I have just returned from 6 weeks in the US, including going to the Midwest Show in St. Louis. Ron Gabbard has covered this in his article and I have a article on the Friday night auction. One thing of note is that this was probably the most international show I have been to with collectors from at least 15 countries. It also had some of the cheapest ceramic bottles I have seen, would you believe \$3/\$5 for Ski Country? In the article, *Collectors Decanters & Steins*, where I visited the home of Ski Country, I neglected to say that the prices there have not been seen elsewhere for decades!



Members Rotem Ben and Pete Gabbard





The cover of the last miNiZ showed a great bottle made especially for British Airways. The forerunner of BA was Aircraft Transport and Travel Limited, which launched the world's first daily international scheduled service between London and Paris in Aug.1919, so 2019 marks the centenary. They are having produced a series of 'Centenary Editions' mini bottles that they are releasing during 2019.

In what the airline has described as a "world first", it has teamed up with Edinburgh-based distillery Pickering's to create a 10-botanical gin designed to be consumed at altitude. The gin will be available as part of a trio pack for £18 on all short haul flights. Note that the other two are standard Pickering's bottles. The gin has been distilled with lemon myrtle, the flavour of which, the brand said, performs particularly well at altitude, providing a natural sweetness that sits alongside floral notes from heather and rose also used in the gin. It has been established that the dry air and low pressure experienced on board a plane reduces the ability to taste and smell, and in

particular to identify sweet and salty flavours. Head distiller and co-founder of Pickering's, Matt Gammell, stated: "To banish so-called airplane 'taste blindness', we have carefully designed a botanical flavour profile that enhances what you lack when you're soaring in the sky. As a distiller, developing a gin on the ground and then trialling it in the sky at different altitudes was a fascinating process. We trialled multiple iterations of the recipe in the air until we were confident that it would taste as good in the sky as it did on the ground." The Pickering's Gin is the first of the Centenary Editions to be released. Look out for others – and send me the pics!



Just in time for this edition, Erica Mulder has sent us this picture of a new NZ Gin from The White Sheep Co. of Whangamata. Erica found the picture and is trying to get some minis direct from the company. A vodka is due out soon also.

Frank Wynn reports yet another new NZ Gin, Old Biddy from Reefton Distillery on the West Coast. Their website states: *Created in honour of Reefton legend Little Biddy, a pipe-smoking, gin-toting, 4 foot tall goldminer. Our search for native botanicals takes us deep into the same West Coast rainforest where Biddy once fossicked for gold, to craft a uniquely New Zealand gin with a pioneer's attitude.*



Unfortunately, they only had one so Frank could not get any for anyone else, however, he got it at Liquorland (Palmerston North) so you may find it at your local branch. They also make a vodka and a whisky. The latter is sold only in small barrels but expect to see the vodka sometime in 50ml.

David Smith



# AUCTION REPORT



All of the bottles I have to show you this time are from the April All Miniatures Auction by Whisky Auction UK. Just for a change, and for no good reason, I am going to present this report in approximate alphabetical order. I am not showing you the top selling bottle as I have featured it recently, a 1955 Macallan in a box, which sold for £2800 in this auction. The next 7 bottles, by price, were all Japanese whiskies, some of which are featured later in this article.



**Beefeater** Very Dry Martini from 1970's, Italy import, £4. **Classic Malts** Aroma Set Talisker, Oban, Glenkinchie, Dalwhinnie, Lagavulin (White Horse), Cragganmore £2.50 (no this is not an error!), **Erkens** Dutch bottled Clynelish 22 Year Old £12.





On last page: **Danisco** Kirsberry £2. **Gordon's** Lemon Gin Spring Cap Bottle from 1950's £6. **Grant's** Inter City APT The Fastest Dram On The West £105 (a surprising large amount for a blend). **Hibiki** 21 Year Old £1650 & £2100.



**Hine** Triomphe Grande Champagne Cognac £14. **Kyro** Napue & Koskue Rye Gin from Finland, 10cl each, £14 the pair. **Macallan** 1949 Trade Sample £975 (for an inkjet printed label \*?|#\*). **Mortlach** 75 Year Old Press Sample Distilled 1939 bottled by Gordon & MacPhail 1cl £310. **Nikka** Aqua Whisky £625.



**Kirin - Seagram** Once Upon A Time Straight Pure Malt Whisky £7. **Henry White & Co** Red Heart Jamaica Rum Bottled 1930's or 1940's £12. **Baird Taylor** Red Tape Scotch, Spanish import £2. **Remember** VSOP Calvados D-Day 6 June 1944 £5. **Remy Fils** Chesky Cherry Whisky Bottled 1930's £2. **Ricardo** Dark and Dry Blended Dominion Rum £7.

On the next page we have: **Ross's** Irish Sloe Gin & Sloe Gin are from the 1960's, the pair sold for £5. **Suntory** Hibiki was bottled in 1979 for the Kobe Miniature Bottle Club, £1650. The **Suntory** Old Whisky Golf Ball is a fairly common bottle, so why did it sell for £115 – NUTS! The next 2 **Suntory** Open golf balls are less common and they also sold very well, £115 for the blue/green & £105 for the red. **Suntory** Reserve King Kong New York Empire State Building £240, **Suntory** Reserve St Valentine New York Empire State Building £260. I would have expected the latter to sell for less than the less common King Kong bottle.





The **Suntory Reserve** Suntory Museum Poster Collection sold for £115 each.



**Suntory Special Reserve**  
Tsukuba Expo '85 pair of  
50ml Birds £260







Above we have Super **Nikka** Whisky with a Sendai Distillery label £1900. **Whyte & Mackay** 40 Year Old Blend £100 – a high price for a blend. **Wild Turkey** 8 Year Old 101 Proof Flying Wild Turkey No1 Decanter 1983. This fetched a totally nuts £190 (that's about NZ\$370) especially considering that I was buying perfect Ski Country ceramics at the St. Louis show for US\$3-15 each.

The three bottles above are some of the stars of the auction. All are Suntory 18 year old from their Yamazaki Distillery but, as they say, the devil is in the detail. The first sold for £1650, the second, a sample bottle, for £2600 and the third for £2300.

There is no doubt that this auction was spectacular for Japanese whiskies.

*David Smith*

# PACIFIC MINIATURES #3

## F-T-G-P-N-C

Fiji, Tonga, Guam, Palau, Norfolk Island & the Cook Islands. In other words all the other Pacific Island Countries/Territories I know of that have produced miniatures.



The four **Fiji** Rums are from South Pacific Distillers. The third is the same label as the second but a plastic bottle. The barrel (the container was made by the same company that make the St. Andrews Scotch barrels) was made by SPD for trading company Motobai for sale in the Nadi Duty Free shop. The Bounty Rum was distilled by SPD but bottled in Auckland. I know that SPD have made more minis as I saw at least 8 in the MD's office in the early 1990's. If anyone has any pictures I would like them please. The Harris Port was bottled in Portugal especially for the Regent of Fiji Hotel, now part of the Sheraton Denarau Resort. I suspect the Mana Island Fiji bottle is one of many made for weddings in various Fiji resorts. Unfortunately I do not know what it contains.

**Tonga** has only made one bottle that I know of but I have two to show you! No That is not a crazy statement as you will see. Motu Rum was made by Motu Rum of Tonga and they have actually used a nice bottle, rather than a 'standard' one that is much easier, and cheaper, to do. The second bottle, White Horse Scotch was bottled





in Scotland but was bottled especially for Polynesian Airlines – based in Tonga.

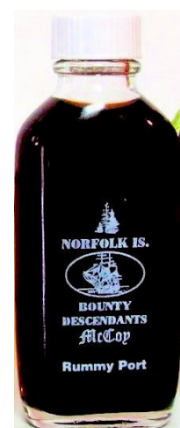
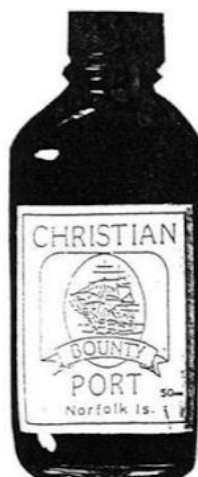
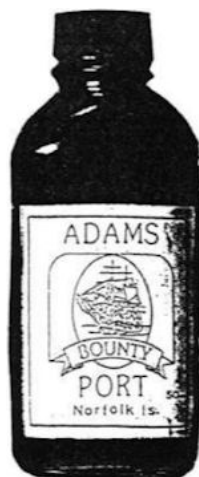


**Guam** is a US Pacific Territory. There appears to be only one company making miniatures, Pacific Beverage Inc. I suspect that the middle bottle above is the back of the other two – can anyone confirm this? So there are either 3 or 4 miniatures we know of.

**Palau** is a republic in free association with the United States, who look after foreign policy etc. and support the government though their foreign aid policy. The Rock Island Vodka is probably the only bottle from this country.



Strictly speaking **Norfolk Island** is now part of Australia – but under no circumstances should you say this if visiting as the islanders are fiercely independent (they are largely descended from the Bounty Mutineers). A couple of years ago Australia, without any consultation, dissolved their parliament and incorporated them as part of the State of New South Wales. I apologise for the poor Port photos – send me some better ones.





The five Ports bear the names of some of the Bounty Mutineers. Some of the descendants of which were transferred from remote Pitcairn Island. There will be four more with a white cap – pictures please.



It is not long ago that we featured these 5 (+ 5 more) liqueurs from Norfolk Island Liqueurs (miNiZ111), so I will say no more.



Similarly, it is not long ago that we featured these four liqueurs from KOTEKA of the **Cook Islands** (miNiZ113).

The Cook Islands are an independent country in free association with New Zealand. All Cook Islanders are also New Zealand citizens, but not the other way around.





The six statues on the last page are all from Tangaroa of the Cook Islands and represent the God Tangaroa. There are various colours. I know of a dark green and a dark brown in addition to the ones shown, if you know of any other colours, pictures please. The fourth bottle is white by the way, it is a bad photograph. These mainly came with Tangaroa liqueur in them but some had perfume. You have no way of knowing if you buy an empty one. The next bottles are a later version of Tangaroa. I think that these were only filled with liqueur. There is variation in the colouring of these and I do not know whether this was intentionally or through poor glazing technique. I suspect that there are at least a plain green and brown to match the plain blue. Left to right I call these blue, mid-blue, pale blue, mid-green and pale brown.



There was a gap of a few years after the last bottles before the next arrived. These again depict Tangaroa but are from a new company, Blue Moon. I know that there are more colours and in this case I want both pictures and some bottles if anyone is going to The Cooks. That is assuming they are still made as these are a few years old now.

Finally, if anyone knows of any bottles from any other Pacific Countries or Territories please send me some photos: [minizv@gmail.com](mailto:minizv@gmail.com)

*David Smith*

# BOTTLE HUNTING IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Sometimes the bottle hunting goes beyond just the Northwest as it did for me and my brother this last April. It was time for the 40th MMBC show in St. Louis and although we normally fly (having driven only one other time), this year we decided to drive. Now the last time we drove my son and daughter-in-law came with us and, although there was some bottle hunting, there was more sightseeing (Las Vegas, Grand Canyon, Badlands, Mount Rushmore). This time there was much more bottle hunting. We travelled over 5000 miles (8000 km) though 15 states.



The first day of the trip we travelled from Tacoma Washington to Twin Falls Idaho. We didn't stop at any liquor stores in Washington as we can do that anytime and I wanted to avoid the 30-40% tax on liquor in the state. Our first stop was in a small liquor store in Ontario, Oregon. I found this set of Redbreast Irish whiskies and some Ciroc Black Raspberry that I picked up to sell at the show. Pete found a boxed set of Absolute Vodkas that had a bottle with a variation he needed, not bad for our first stop. We stopped next at a liquor store in Boise, Idaho. There was a Macallan Sherry Oak cask that I didn't realize was a new bottle until later in the trip, so I didn't buy one. Also, we didn't find anything of interest at a liquor store in Twin Falls later that evening.

Next day we headed for Ogden, Utah with plans to visit Ogden's own distillery (they make 5 Wives Vodka as well as some other liquors). We arrived early in Ogden so stopped at a liquor store only to find no minis. When we got to the distillery we found it was more of a gift shop (no distillery tours) and that although they make minis, they cannot sell them in the state of Utah. Pete got a T-shirt and shot glass and we were off toward Wyoming. Based on the Billboards in Wyoming the state has two main industries, selling alcohol (complete with drive through liquor stores) and Fireworks. Many times you can buy both at the same place and EVERYONE has the cheapest alcohol and fireworks. We stopped at a few stores in Wyoming where I found a 375ml Huckleberry Vodka and some local liqueurs in plastic. I got the Vodka for my wife partly as a joke (told her she can use it as a water bottle for work) but did not want the plastic bottles. After spending the night in Cheyenne, Wyoming we headed towards Nebraska.

We stopped at a few liquor stores in Nebraska and although I bought some large bottles for my wife and daughter (the liquor store had a good sale) all Pete found was a sleeve of new style Van Gogh Vodkas he already had but could not pass them up at \$1 a bottle. Due to flooding issues we were detoured through Kansas where we found some local plastic bottles but really had no interest in them. It was then on to Kansas City for the night.





Next day it was on to St. Louis with a stop at a distillery about an hour from our destination, Wood Hat Spirits, that currently doesn't make minis but they are thinking about it. They have a unique bottle that they said was available in 50ml size. We each bought a shot glass and encouraged them to make some minis. We arrived in St. Louis, checked into the hotel and did what any diehard bottle collector would do when attending a bottle convention, we headed out to check out the liquor stores. This is an annual tradition that we normally do on Friday but the last couple of years if we get in town early enough we have headed out to catch a couple on Thursday night.

This Compass box set was one of my first finds along with the new Johnnie Walker Gold Label and 18 year old (they come in a set that I had seen online but had not seen them sold individually). I also found the Johnnie Walker Blue (with box) and the Macallan 12 Sherry Oak that I had not picked up in Idaho. I picked up some extras of these so I would have them for the show. After going to 4 or 5 liquor stores we headed back to the hotel to go to dinner.



Also that evening, actually before we headed out to the liquor stores, we did some exchanging with Rotem and I got some really nice bottles. The Monkey Head Vodka, a pair of Glenfiddich bottles, some Scotch soccer bottles and some other scotch bottles (too many to show).





Friday before the annual meeting and auction we went out again looking at liquor stores and found some of the same bottles I had already found (at cheaper prices in some cases). The only thing new I found was the Willett Bourbon bottle. The store that had it put a limit of 1 per day per customer. I had not seen one at a store before so I bought my one.

Then the show began. Friday evening is the show buffet, annual meeting and consignment auction. This year (because it was the 40th anniversary) it was bigger than usual. The Hotel had to bring in an extra table and chairs to accommodate all of the people this year. There was a good assortment of auction bottles with some very nice stuff. And plenty of bottles at the show.





I did really well at the show finding lots of things to add to my collection, I also had a good show selling. In years past I would try and guess what might sell and sometimes I'd be right and other times not. Last year I was really over thinking and ended up with stuff no one was really interested in, this year I just packed stuff and didn't give it a lot of thought and things sold well. Some of the stuff I got at the show: Chivas Blending Kit, 4 Glen Els Single Malt Whiskies, some Absinthes (I got more than just these two), New Riff bourbon, Bache Gabrielson Cognac, 1616 Rum, Sunshine Whiskey (and a whole lot more). I also won 5 raffles at the show (I normally feel lucky if I win 1).



After the show the fun was far from being over. We still had the trip home plus a side trip. Before the show I had talked with David Smith about doing something after the show since we were driving. He suggested Kentucky to visit some distilleries. Having never been to Kentucky before we were in. So Sunday after the show we drove to Bardstown, Kentucky with plans to visit distilleries and do some more bottle hunting. We ended up doing 3 distillery tours, Limestone Branch distillery, a small operation with a lot of history, Makers Mark a larger distillery on a beautifully manicured site and Willett Distillery a medium sized distillery. It was really nice as each tour was very different from the others. If I were to describe the tours I would say that Limestone Branch was small and intimate (everything was in one building) and they were heavy on the history; Makers





Mark was professional, they printed out tickets, you start in a building and walk through 6 buildings, the grounds are well kept, tastings are pre-set up for the group and they have the largest gift shop; Willett was the most educational, you visited 4 buildings and it felt very informal like the tour was being given by your neighbour (the one you like).



Limestone Branch Distillery  
Top 3 Pictures



Makers Mark  
Next 4 pictures



Willett Distillery Bottom 4 Pictures



I did find the Willett Mini at the Distillery, and it was \$4 cheaper than what I had paid in St. Louis. I like the bottle so I picked up a couple extras. Also at Makers Mark you can buy a bottle (375 or 750 ml) and dip the bottle in wax. Both Pete and I did this. In between (and after) the distillery tours we hit up the liquor stores in and around Bardstown. The first stop we ran into a cranky cashier, it was like we were an inconvenience to her by being there. When David explained we were mini bottle collectors and asked her if she knew of any other liquor stores that might have a nice selection, she gruffly said "I don't know I don't go in any other liquor store". I bought the Angels Envy there anyway, it's a 100 ml but I liked the looks of it. We then went to 3 or 4 more liquor stores in the area. Poor David found some Twistee Shot minis from New Zealand with US importers labels on, the only catch was they only came in 4 packs. So he had to buy 4 of each flavour to get one of each of them. He sent the extras home with us (which my kids enjoyed) as he was not going to try and take them all back in his suitcase.



Tuesday Morning after breakfast Pete and I started our Journey home heading up into Indiana. At a liquor store in this little town in the middle of nowhere I found the Quiet Man Irish Whiskey in the clearance bin (with a bunch of plastic bottles) I bought both they had and got to get a free bottle so I picked out a plastic drinker. We continued our journey through Illinois and Wisconsin not

finding anything of note in any of the liquor stores we stopped at. Spent the night in Blue Earth, Minnesota, home of the Green Giant (and Sprout). The next day at a stop in Sturgis, South Dakota at the liquor store we found bottles to commemorate the 79th annual motorcycle Rally. They had 19 minis, we bought 19 minis. I almost bought a larger one too but thought better of it.



After a final night in Bozeman, Montana we started the final stretch toward home. We stopped at a tourist trap gift shop that I like. There is a liquor store there but I have never found anything in it that I wanted so I let Pete check it out while I enjoyed my Huckleberry shake out by the car. He called me into the store after a few minutes. While they had nothing of note up front, in the back they had something special. Apparently, Willies, a distillery in Montana, does their minis in plastic, except for a special set they do for Christmas. They had one complete set and these 4 bottles. Pete took the set and I grabbed the 4 (there is a honey moonshine that goes with the set). Pete has since located some more of these sets, but they are a 10 hour drive each way to get them...Another Road trip anyone?

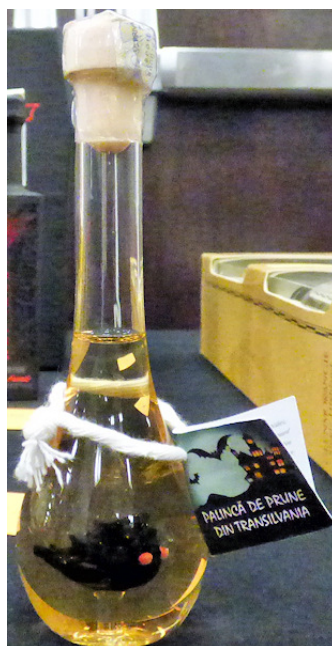


*Ron Gabbard*

## FRIDAY NIGHT AUCTION

The Friday night auction is an institution at the Midwest Miniature Bottle Club Show. Fittingly the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary show saw a record turnout for the buffet meal and auction. Prices were generally quite high. A few bottles were 'bought back' (the seller would not sell at the top bid price) but most of those were unrealistic expectations in today's market for minis. All prices in US\$.

I am going to show you pictures of all the bottles I found interesting, although, due to the socialising going on, I did not get the hammer price of some of them. I bid on a few but my only purchase was the two ships. Two prices I noted but did not photograph (look them up on Miniature Bottle Library) were the 200ml Gautier Cognac at \$220 and a Jannot gold globe at \$200 – a very high price for this.

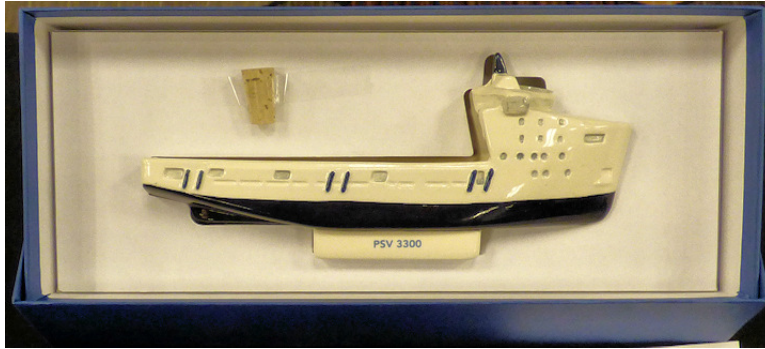


The blown glass Gondola is from Zamperoni of Italy - \$100. The Octopus is also Italian, from Giori this time, although many of these Italian blown glass bottles are filled by different distilleries - \$40. The blown glass flask has a bat in it. This bottle is from Transilvania (Romania). It sold for what I thought was a high price of \$60.

The two ships sold for \$60 each. They are number two and three in a series issued by Damen Shipyards, Gorinchem, Holland. The bottles were made by Royal Goedewaagen and are filled with 50ml of gin.







I am trying to find out more and get a photo of #1.



This set of 5 bottles is from Licores Osmaios of Spain. It was made for the CECBL (Spanish MBC) show last year. Unfortunately, as you can see, one of the handles was broken in transit.



The Oil Lamp is an older bottle (1970's I think) from Hans Moser - \$20 bought it.



The two gold ladies are Manhattan's from the 1930's (or possibly 1940's as some were made after WWII). The remarkable thing about these is that they are in mint condition. \$60 bought the pair.

We start the next page with two new Tequila sets, Legacia and Torus.





The two Fubar Tequila Silver bottles sold for a high \$70. The pink bottle was a special for the Cancer Society.



The above speak for themselves. I did not get the auction prices for these or the next set.





The set of six MBC Geishas are from the 1980's. \$45 was a fair price in today's market.

Finally, the Two Chinese card bottles which sold for \$15 the pair.

*David Smith*



# ***HISTORICAL FIGURES #3N***

## ***NAPOLEON***

There are few historical figures that are better known than Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1851). But, of course, I am going to give you a brief bio anyway.

Napoleon was born in Corsica and was of Italian lineage. He was an officer in the French army when the French Revolution occurred, sided with the rebels, and rose to the rank of General within 4 years. Given command of one of the French armies he quickly won a series of campaigns and became a very popular figure. A coup in 1799 led to him becoming the nation's leader and, in 1804, the self declared French Emperor.

A whole series of battles and wars were fought in the early 1800's, most of which were won by the French under Napoleon's direct command. So good was he that his tactics are still studied today. He was finally defeated at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815 and exiled to the island of St. Helena in the South Atlantic, where he eventually died.

There are so many Napoleon minis I have written two Napoleon articles, one for NZMBC and one for MMBC. In these articles I have only included bottles showing Napoleon, not the hundreds of Napoleon Brandy minis that do not show him, or the Imperial Eagle or other symbols associated with Nappy (as his mates call him).



Above we have three Napoleon Cognacs. These are from Sauvion, Premier and a Larsen Cognac Vieux (old). Cazanove made the only liqueur I have to show you and San Gil the only Armagnac (my personal favourite brandy). Waterloo is from The Whisky Connoisseur.



There are a heap of mini books and variations from Camus with Napoleon on the cover. Being Limoges all are expensive but some are almost impossible to obtain – a selection is shown below.



DVM of Italy made the first Napoleon figure. This is a 'stock' Italian ceramic that has appeared with at least three more labels. Sarandrea, also of Italy, made the middle figure and Robj of France the last one.

Starting on the next page with have 4 busts. The first and last are from France,





Tanneur and Courvoisier. There are at least 7 variations of the latter. No2 is Old Store of Italy and No3 is from Teichenne of Spain. The wonderful mini on the left is from Dorville.



All of the final 6 straights are French Brandies. I especially like the first one, De Valcourt. Papalorey and Drossarc round out above with Alain Thomas and St. Remy from Remy Martin on the left. The latter is a US import bottle. Finally we a Lansac VSOP.



David Smith



# THE FOUNDERS

## COURVOISIER

Many brandies of various places of origin, including those not made in France, have the name Napoleon on the label. This is meant to show that this is a superior brandy. However, Napoleon only drank Cognac.

The man most associated with Napoleon and cognac was Emmanuel Courvoisier. He and his business partner, Etienne Gallois, ran a substantial wine and spirit business in Paris which had six kilometres of underground caves. Napoleon already did business with Emmanuel when in 1810 he needed somewhere to store the large amount of liquid treasures plundered during his conquests around Europe. Wisely Emmanuel agreed he could use part of his underground cellars. Etienne Gallois eventually became more interested in politics and Emmanuel took over the business completely.

In 1811 Mr. Courvoisier bought some cellars in Jarnac which is in the Cognac region. He bought cognacs to age and blend and proved very successful at this. In 1815 Napoleon tried to flee

France to go to America but he was caught by the British Navy. Amongst the goods they seized were two casks of Courvoisier Cognac. They drank the cognac to the toast "we are drinking Napoleon's brandy". Up until



the early part of the 20th century Cognac houses advertised their wares as brandy. So, despite the many claims, there is only one true Napoleon brandy. Courvoisier is now owned by Beam Suntory.

## TIO PEPE

Manuel Gonzales Angel was born in Seville and was one of seven children. Unlike his siblings he was a sickly child and not expected to have a long life. His father died when he was young and his uncle Tony helped look after him. The uncle lived in Sanlucar where he traded in the famous Manzanilla sherry. No doubt the





bracing sea air helped Manuel on his visits there. He grew stronger and worked in a bank for a few years. He then became self employed dealing with the trading and shipping of various vegetables. When he married he moved to Jerez and changed his business from vegetables to sherry. His uncle Tony used to visit and sample his various sherries but there was one that was his favourite. Manuel would put a butt aside for him to taste at his leisure and put the name Tio Pepe on the butt. The quality of "Uncle Tony" soon spread and Manuel realised he would have to concentrate on this particular sherry. Tio Pepe is now owned by Gonzales Byass and is the biggest selling dry sherry in the world.



## ELIJAH CRAIG

Elijah Craig was born in America of Scottish/Irish descent. He was a Baptist minister and moved from Pennsylvania to Kentucky. As well as his church duties the Reverend Craig was also a farmer and a distiller. He claimed he used the whiskey for medicinal purposes, a restorative for exhausted travellers and the occasional drop for himself.

In 1785 there was a fire in his still. Only a few of the barrels were saved and they were badly charred. He eventually took up distilling again and had new barrels made. When he put the latest batch into the barrels there was some spirit left over and he had to use the charred barrels. When he eventually poured a whiskey from a charred barrel it was noticeably darker and more mellow than that of the new barrel spirit. The mixture of the charred barrels and extra ageing had produced a higher quality whiskey.



He passed on the details to his fellow distillers and soon all were using the new process. By 1792 there were 25 distilleries in the area. To distinguish their Kentucky corn whiskey from the rye whiskey of other areas they chose the name Bourbon. The name was taken from Bourbon County where much of the distilling took place. An unfortunate accident led to one of the most popular spirits in the world. Elijah Craig is now a brand of Heaven Hill.

Unfortunately I do not have an Elijah Craig mini (picture is for a 750ml bottle), and nor is there one on Miniature Bottle Library. I have also looked online and cannot find one. Does anyone know if they have ever made any?

*Frank Wynn*



## REACH FOR THE SKY – PT.3

I have a real mixture of bottles to show you in this article, anything to do with flying that has made it into miniature bottles.

We start with 'The Flying Man' from Lufthansa. I believe that this is from an old German legend.



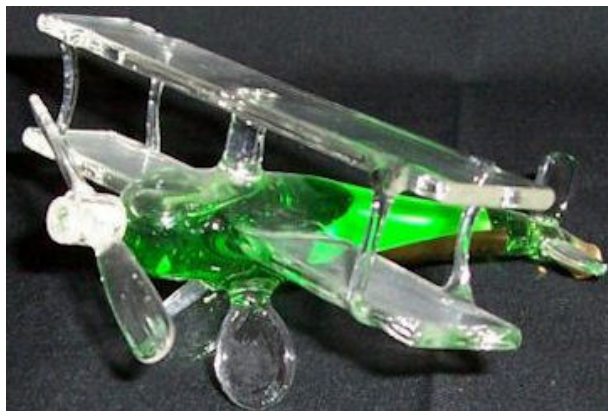
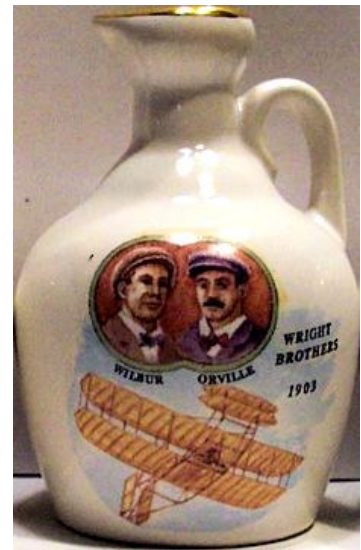
The next pictures all feature balloons, the second real flying machines. Second? Yes, second as the Chinese lifted men up on kites centuries before. This was usually to spy on enemy formations prior to battle. These existed from at least the 6<sup>th</sup> century but, as far as I know, there are no minis depicting these. The mortality rate was VERY high! The idea was 'reinvented' in Europe in the very late 1800's/early 1900's. Kite surfing is popular today in some places but the mortality rate is still high in comparison to other sports. Ballooning really caught on for a few decades, there even being trans-Atlantic flights using rigid hydrogen filled craft. Hot air ballooning (all the balloons shown here) is now popular again for tourists. And large rigid or semi rigid helium balloons are in process of being commercialised again.

The six cans are the Historic Balloons series from Alpa and are one of the harder can sets to obtain. All Alpa cans contain water. El Globo is a great Tequila mini that we showed you a few issues back. The Aviemore Balloon Festival bottle was made by Cairngorm Whisky Centre in 1995 and, of course, contains Scotch.

We start the next page with two Rutherford Scotch jugs marking the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wright Brothers' first flight. Probably not THE first flight as there are at least two other



claimants, one dating back to 1899, but the flight that fired mankind's imagination and led directly to the aviation industry of today. The back of the first jug is also shown, showing that this is a limited edition of this jug. I suspect the other one isn't as Rutherford has done this several times. Note also the gold rim.



Next is the only blown glass bi-plane I know of. This is from Perlstein of Holland and probably contains crème-de-menthe. The other two bi-planes are from La Priere of France and both contain French Brandy.



I know of seven other blown glass planes. All are mono-planes and the first 5 are from the US. They come from Champagne & Associates, Dumont, Manhattan (shown) and two from Southern Sales (1 shown). The other two are both from Rynbende (1 shown).





Contrary to what many people think, Charles Lindbergh, flying The Spirit of St. Louis, was not the first to fly the Atlantic. He was the first to fly solo in 1927 but British aviators Alcock & Brown beat him to it by flying the Atlantic in a modified WWI Vickers Vimy bomber in 1919. They flew from Newfoundland to Ireland. The three The Whisky Connoisseur Scotches were made for the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2009.



On the right is The Spirit of St. Louis from Bottles Beautiful / Famous Firsts (same company). It was also issued by McCormick who had the gold sample bottle made but never put it into production.

Winnie Mae is a famous aircraft from the 1930's. Again, it was not the first to do something but it did it much more efficiently. Things had moved on greatly by 1930 and this

Lockheed 5C Vega was a 7 seat passenger aircraft. This circumnavigated the globe in a little less than 9 days in 1931. The original around the world flight was in 1924. Eight U.S. Army Air Service pilots and mechanics in four airplanes completed the journey in 175 days after making 74 stops!



The bottle on the right is the one you commonly see. This is from Bottles Beautiful / Famous Firsts. The version on the left, and the one on the next

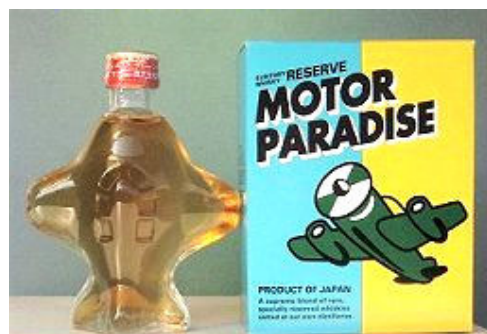






page, are probably the same and are more realistic as to colouring. I have provided two photos as it is difficult to see the purple on the larger photo.

Now for a few miscellaneous aircraft that are obviously pre-WWII.



There is, of course, a bi-plane on the MMBC 11<sup>th</sup> show bottle. The Flying Forester is one of the rarer 'railways' bottles from Old Forester. The Coca Cola airplane clock is not really a bottle – but I do like it. Motor Paradise is from Suntory. It has also been sold in another (not as nice) box. Destiladora of Mexico made the pressed glass bottle, probably in the 1930's. The bottle was also used by Garnier. The Dakota on the left was made by A. van Wees for the Dutch Dakota Association. The green Dakota is from Hulstekamp, also a Dutch company. An earlier version is on a ceramic stand but most of these you see have the stand missing.

The final article in this series will be in miNiZ124.

*David Smith*



**Your Article Could Be Here in  
miNiZ124**

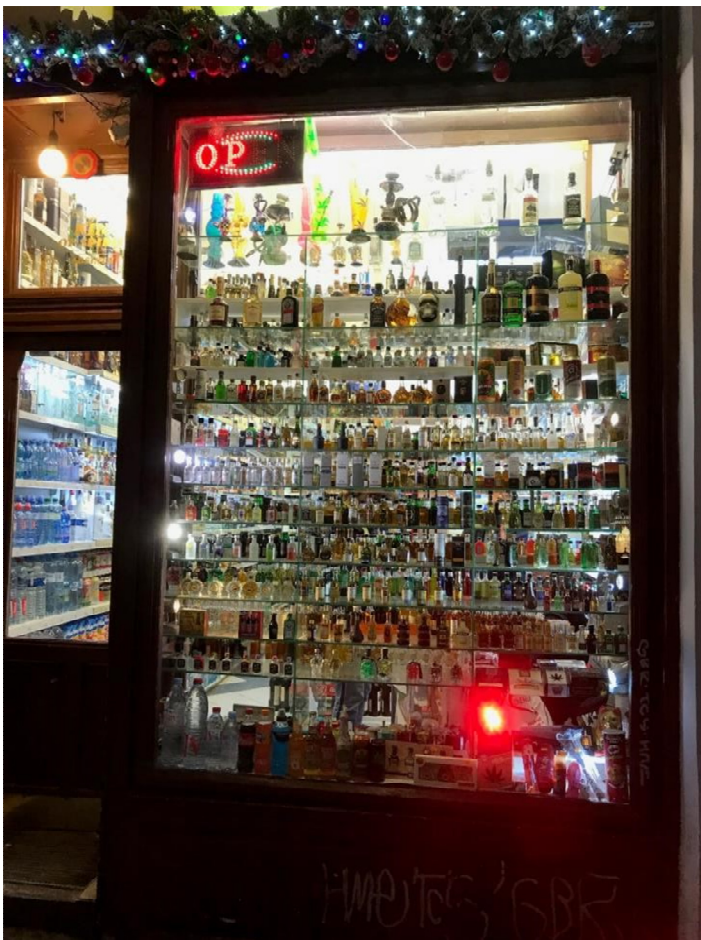


# COLLECTING FROM OVERSEAS



One of the things that makes bottle collecting even more challenging to me nowadays, other than the fact that there is barely anybody left who collects what I collect, is the fact that we moved overseas. Picking up stuff I'm after overseas is virtually impossible, mostly due to the fact that I'm looking for old stuff.

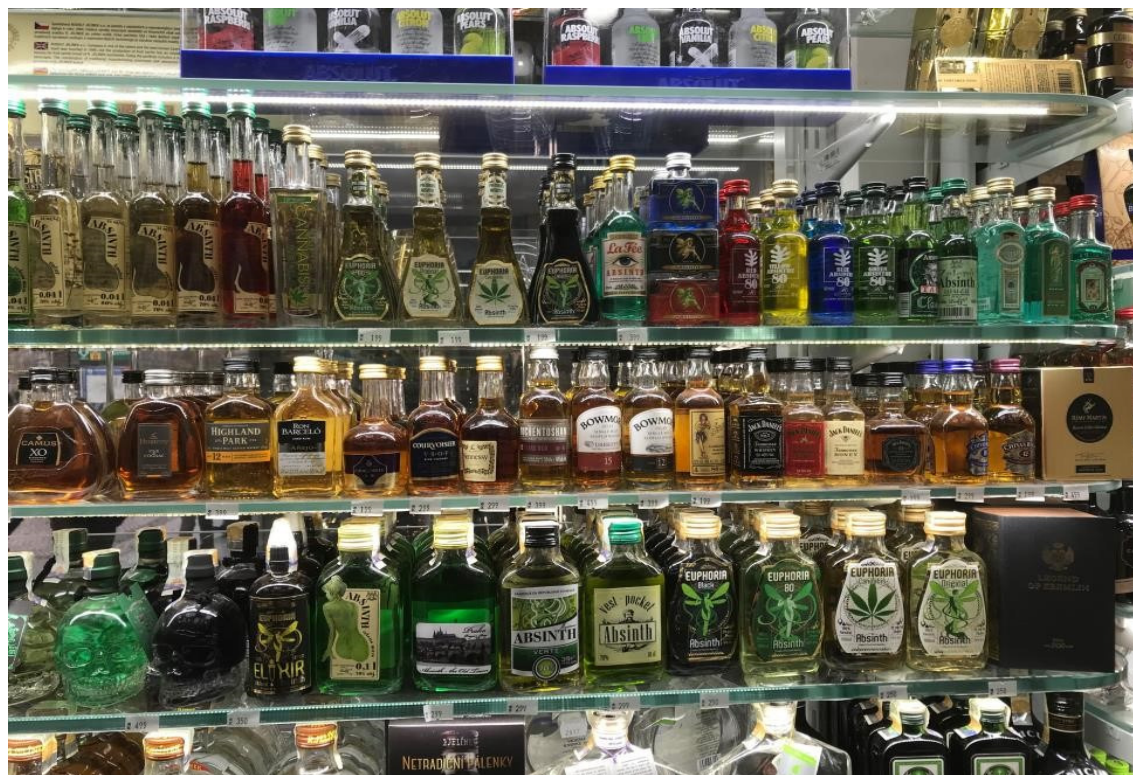
However, picking up other minis overseas is a whole different ballgame, and the selection, the prices and the accessibility is incredible.



Israelis travel. A lot. And due to that fact, there's a huge competition between the airlines and the booking agencies, which lowers the cost to travel to a floor price. How low? It can be as low as US\$30 for a roundtrip from Tel Aviv to Athens Greece; US\$60 for a roundtrip from Tel Aviv to Berlin; and US\$100 for a roundtrip to Cyprus and the list goes on. To put things in proportion, I paid US\$285 for my roundtrip flight from Atlanta to St. Louis...

That's as far as geographical accessibility goes, what about liquor accessibility? Let's just say that the ATF in the US should learn a thing or two from the Europeans. Liquor stores, grocery stores, flea markets, supermarkets, mom and pop shops, gas stations, newsstands – you

Last but not least – the attitudes towards the product. While in the US the big companies will try to max the profits by creating miniatures (Usually in plastic these days – Ed.), in Europe everything has to be done in the highest possible quality, and that's also true for bottles. Have you ever seen an English gin, a single malt or an absinth in plastic? Almost never. So these three reasons,



If you ever hear of or see anything specific in the Tel Aviv duty free or anywhere in Europe you'd like to get – I'll be happy to get it for you.

[illegible]

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# WAYNE'S ARCHIVE #1

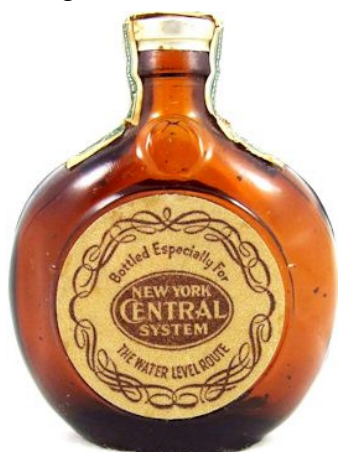
Previously I have written articles about bottles that are variations of each other, different shaped bottles, different coloured labels, etc. In this article I am going to show you some of the label variations I have found in the different categories that you might use to categorize your bottles. I will start with the Product's Name & Label.

## PRODUCT'S NAME & LABEL

The obvious Product Name variation is when the product is made using different ingredients. Like 1921 Tequila, where you have Anejo, Blanco, Reposado, and Reserva Especial. This type of variation is common and easy to spot.

Also obvious are bottles like Old Forester Railroad Bottles, where the product is the same but the customers are different.

Sometimes the product has changed which forces a label change, like Knob Creek Kentucky Straight Bourbon which changed from being 9 years old to no designation of age.



## DISTILLER AND BOTTLER

Changes in the Distiller's and/or Bottler's names may take some hard looking to find unless they have also changed the label. The same is true if the Distiller and/or Bottler are bought out by another distiller or bottler. Therefore, this may take some hard looking and a very good knowledge of your collection.



## BOTTLE SIZE

Bottle size is generally printed on the label but some bottles have the size embossed in the glass. If embossed, the size is generally in the shoulder area of the bottle or near the bottle's base. I think that we are all familiar with the 50ml, 100ml and 1/10pint, but other common sizes range from 0.02L to 0.1L, 1oz to 2oz, 30ml, 45ml, 1/8pint, 1/16pint, 2cl to 5cl, 30cc, & 40cc. Many of these unusual sizes are found on bottles from Europe, Asia and other areas.

## % ALC./PROOF & PRODUCT'S AGE

% Alc./Proof & Product's Age change all of the time with generally no real change in the label. Therefore, this may take some hard looking and again, a very good knowledge of your collection.

## BOTTLE CHARACTERISTICS & SHAPE

Depending on your knowledge of your collection, Bottle Characteristics & Shape can be difficult. First is glass versus plastic, then you have clear versus brown or green or frosted, etc. You also have shape, round verses flat or square or flask or rectangle, etc. You can even have minor changes in the shape of the bottle like Van Gogh Vodka, who switched from square shouldered bottles to round shouldered bottles.



## TOPS

Some collectors look for variations in Tops. There are Screw, Tamper proof, Pull, etc. (see Old Forester bottles) Some collectors even collect tops of different materials and/or colours.

As you can see there are an almost unlimited number of variations that you can integrate into your collection.

*Wayne Full*



# **COLLECTOR'S DECANTERS & STEINS**

## **THE HOME OF SKI COUNTRY**

After the St. Louis show, as mentioned elsewhere, I travelled to Kentucky to visit some distilleries. From there I was heading north and noticed that Ski Country were just off my route. I looked up the area and decided it was worth stopping for a few days.



Lavon Daugherty has owned Ski Country for quite a number of years now. He normally goes, as a dealer, to the St. Louis show but had a stroke last October. He is mobile but not exactly spritely and currently cannot drive but hopes to get his license



back. As well as the shop, which has in many hundreds of full and mini size decanters and a large quantity of steins, there is also a Decanter Museum at the back.







The museum has dozens of cabinets filled mainly with Ski Country and Jim Beam decanters of various sizes. All the Ski Country bottles ever made are here and there are a number of sample bottles also, such as the Brown Bear & Cheetah, that were never made as minis.



As you will no doubt have noticed from the photos there are also other brands of minis and full size decanters and, again, there are a sprinkling of sample bottles.

I recommend a visit if you find yourself in the area. 119 E. Main St., Sugarcreek, OH 44681 Phone: (330) 852-9191

*David Smith*



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## **BOTTLE FOR THE US NAVY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT**

The bottle on the left is a bit scruffy but we will forgive it for that as it is an interesting one. Frank Wynn found this and asked me if I knew its age. He thought that it might have been from the prohibition era but I doubted this. I guessed 1950's but am happy to defer to David Spaid's estimate of the 1940's.

If anyone has any more information please email Frank: [zelfra76@callplus.net.nz](mailto:zelfra76@callplus.net.nz)



# OLD & RARE

On my recent trip to the US I spent quite a bit of time scouring antique malls for bottles for myself and frogs for Rosie's collection. I believe I did rather well.

The first two are Japanese give-away bottles (given away in the US). I have a few of these but it is not my core collection, although I do pick the odd one up now and again if it is cheap. I could not leave these behind at US\$5 each.



The dog cocking it's leg and the lobster flask are German give-aways - US\$5 for the dog and US\$6 for the lobster. The dog is unmarked, except to say Germany, on the bottom. I have included close-up shots of the markings on the lobster.



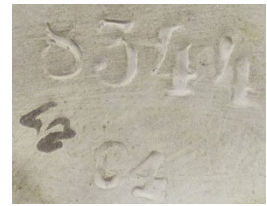
I may have shown you this head before as I bought it several years ago. He is also a German give-away, one I have been able to date accurately. I have included a picture of the label on the bottom. W. A. Harper & Sons owned the Texas Saloon in San Angelo, Texas in 1906 & 1907. I don't know now what I paid but it came from dealer, Harry Goetz, so it would not have been a lot.

On my travels this time I came across three more heads, in three different antique malls in three different states. Two of these are shown on the next page. I remember that I paid

US\$10 for the first one and US\$18 for the other. Plus tax of course. I really hate the US system of adding tax at this till, rather than including it in the price as almost every other



country does with sales tax/VAT/GST. Although to be fair, the Canadians are even worse as GST is added on at the till and some provinces add sales tax as well. OK, finished my rant.



The catalogue number 8344 appears on the bottom of the third head. The second head is number 8343. I'm sure there will also be a number on the first head but the label will be covering it. I said that I found 3 more heads. Some idiot had obviously tried to jam a cork

into the other head causing a large V shape piece to be broken off the neck of the bottle. Even so the dealer wanted US\$110 for it! Maybe they really know what these are worth. I have no idea why I did not photograph it – sorry.



These two-tone bottles are not common. Note the boy is also coloured on the brown side of the bottle. I know it is German as it says so but there are no other markings. I could not resist this at US\$27 - +tax of course!

The next six bottles were a real find. They are part of the Ragtime Circus set from Carioca of Puerto Rico and date from 1940-41. The dealer was asking US\$35 each but the mall manager made it clear he would do a deal for all six. I had got him down to US\$150 for the six and counter offered US\$130. I emailed David Spaid to ask his opinion as to



what they were worth. David emailed me back stating “a least \$75 each even without labels.” The following morning the mall rang to say my offer had been accepted. After adding tax they cost me about NZ\$35 each – I’m happy at that!



Above we have the owl and two ducks. These all come in blue and green versions. The dog is known as Dog Chasing Tail and is rather big for a mini but has the same amount of contents as the others. The second dog on the left is actually called The Sphinx. MBL only had a black and white scan of the Butcher Boy before I found this one. His correct name is

Boy with Cart. There are 36 in total in this set, some of which Miniature Bottle Library does not have photos of. Go to <https://www.minibottlelibrary.com/mbi/alpha/carioca/index.html> to see the others and, PLEASE, if you have any of these, especially any that MBL does not have a photo of, get your camera out and send me the pics.

I have half a page left so I will show you some not so old and not so rare, but still good, bottles I bought on my travels.

The poly-Delft house is a special for G. Drenth of Amsterdam. I bought this for US\$1.50 at an antique mall, I



would have paid 20x that! The ‘flicker bottle’ lady is from RS Limited of California. I have another of these in different colours.

The guitar is one of at least 10 different colour variations from Music City, I now have six of them. The boat is one of who knows how many paint variations from G. Barattucci of Italy (Corfino is their trade name). The last three all came from the show and, sorry, I cannot recall what I paid for any of them.

*David Smith*



## DAVID'S BOTTLES

I have 19 bottles to show you in this edition, as usual, they largely speak for themselves. I am sure that some of you will argue that the 125ml Mexican bottles are not minis, although in a sense they are more a mini than many 50 & 100ml minis in that they are faithful reproductions of the larger bottles. We start with the 125's, the first three from Nuevo Era contain Tequila Anejo and the next three Cabo Unico bottles from Vainilla & Almendra contain liqueurs.



Sticking with Mexico we have 5 glass bottles. Veo Doble is a Mezcal. Codigo Blanco and Reposado Tequilas are





Shown and presumably there is a third, Anejo. I know there is a third Nuda, a Blanco that someone had drunk!



Sticking with North America we have eight new Moonshine jars.

Yama is a new Japanese whisky. The fancy gin bottle is from Siera del Oro of Spain who have produced other unusual bottles. The BVB Malabusca is another Spanish gin.







The Van Gogh pineapple is a new label.

Russian Blue is a new vodka from Russia, where else?

United Stars Vodka is from Ontario, Canada. United Stars is an importer and distributor so I am not sure if this is Canadian vodka or just Canadian bottled vodka.

*David Spaid*



## Date - Time - Place

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July, 12.30pm, Pot Luck Lunch @ Ken & Marlee Chin's, 29 Norton Park Avenue, Fairfield, Lower Hutt Phone: 04 938 1488

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September, 12.30pm, Pot Luck Lunch @ Ian Butcher's, 5 Sunburst Court, Paraparaumu Phone: 04 904 3157

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 12.30pm, Pot Luck @ Errol & Karen Brassett's, 39 Pembroke Street, Tawa, Wellington Phone: 04 232 6598

December lunch - TBA

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2020, 12.30pm, Annual Barbeque @ David & Rosie Smith's, 11 Trevor Terrace, Paremata Phone: 04 233 2997

**PLEASE, let the hosts know you are coming a few days beforehand.**

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 2020 AGM will be in February, date to be advised. 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.