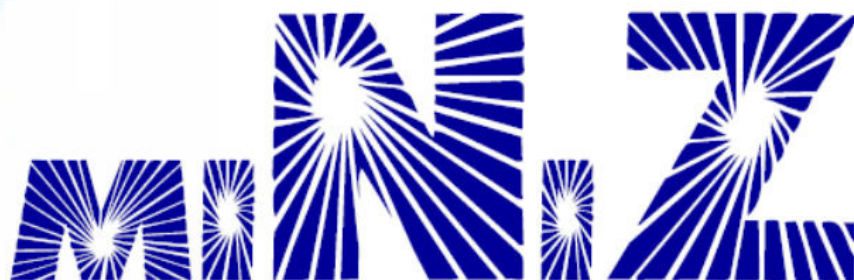
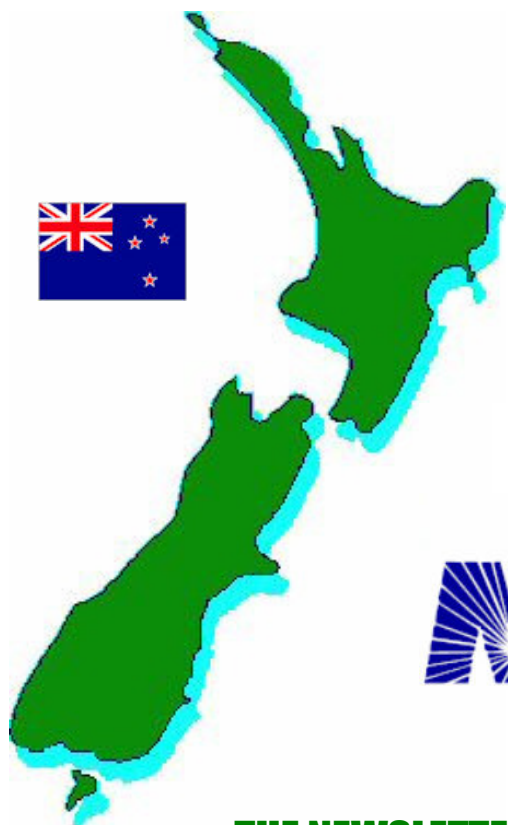


Issue 124 - Spring 2019



WWW.MINISNZ.COM

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 Erica Mulder. They are a four bottle tasting set of new NZ gin bottles from Christchurch based The Spirits Workshop Distillery. That's all I know but you can read the back of the box.



I had another nice Gin to show you but added it to an article on gins by Seva to fill the page – the one from the Orkney Isles. This is a bit of a gin issue and I think it is the first time we have had gins on the cover two issues running.

Talking of Seva, he sent me this picture of the 25th Anniversary of Knob Creek miniature sample bottle. It was sent for Miniature Bottle Library but I thought you Bourbon collectors would like to see it as it is a rare sample that most of you will not have.

We have no Auction Report this time as I do not know of any auctions and nobody has sent me any photos/data. **HINT!**

Which is more expensive, Vintage Champagne or printer ink? Which, the UK consumer organisation, found that printer ink was 10 times more expensive at consumer level, the equivalent of £94.50 for a mini – it would be similar in NZ. And I thought that many miniatures are a rip-off! The ink was also found to be more expensive than Chanel No.5 perfume –

yes but you cannot print with Champagne or perfume!

According to Frank Wynn Gordon & MacPhail have stopped producing 5cl bottles. They do not seem to have had a large output in recent years but were prolific in the past.

I had an email from Nick Hines, the Food & Drink editor at Matador Network. He was doing an article on Power's Irish Whiskey, who are claiming to have made the first miniature bottles in 1889. That claim is probably arguable but the article is worth reading:

<https://matadornetwork.com/read/story-mini-bottles-liquor/>

In miNiZ123 (page 17) Ron Gabbard showed us a picture of an etched Jack Daniels bottle he and Pete found, commemorating the 79th Annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. Ron & Pete thought the etching was a great idea and set about seeing if they could



do something similar for the Northwest Miniature Bottle Club's 50th anniversary. Ron's daughter found someone locally who agreed to do the etching at a very reasonable price and the result is stunning. The etching shows Mount Rainier and the Seattle Space Needle. Great bottle Ron!



Almost all of you will be familiar with Dug's Brothel Bottles (look them up on MBL if you aren't) but these turned up recently. None are bottles and the plates were, I think, only samples. However the Chapel of The Bells, a Las Vegas landmark, was made in quantity. I mentioned these to David Spaid and, amazingly, he has just found a number of chapel ceramics. If you want one I am sure David will do you a good deal. davidmspaid@gmail.com



The bottles below are again from Seva, who has been prolific this edition. They are the current range of minis from Colibri distillery in Panama.



Graham Ramsay from Brisbane sent us photos of some new Australian bottles. They were produced by Demoiselle Distillery, Panuara, New South Wales. All are 50ml, 40% alc/vol. They are the only minis they have produced and come in set packs.



David Smith

DAVID'S BOTTLES



I have 23 bottles to show you in this edition, as usual, they largely speak for themselves. I will start off with some Mexican bottles.

Katrina, the lovely lady to our left, is a sample of a new Day of The Dead bottles. The Leyenda Mezcal shows front and back. Califino is a nice



new tequila set. Finally from Mexico we have a Hacienda Sahuayo Reposado Tequila and a Zignum Mezcal.

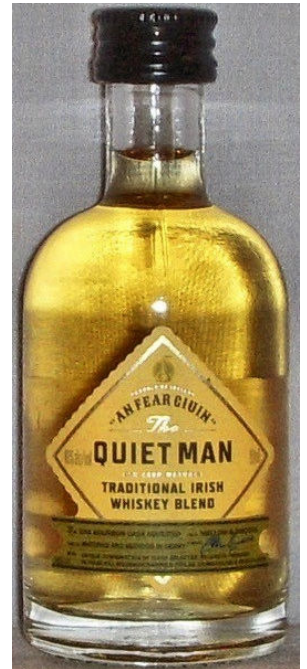


Lichfield Distillery, Connecticut, USA



The third bottle on the first picture is obviously a 10 year old. Less obvious, the first two are a 2 and 3 year old. The other four are obviously flavoured Bourbons

Quiet Man is an Irish Whiskey. One gin is British and sales support sustainable water projects.



Dead Man's Fingers and Bimber are both from England.

David Spaid

IS GIN THE NEXT HOT THING IN MINI COLLECTING?

I consider myself a general collector of minis. I may prefer vodka and cognac to tequila and whiskey but generally speaking a fantastic tequila or liqueur is as exciting to add to my collection as anything else out there.



For many years gins were a perfect example of a category that I ignored and didn't much care for. There was nothing special about gins and outside of the UK, there were probably few that actively collected them. Don't get me wrong, there are examples of really old gin minis which are fantastic. But overall traditionally gins

have not been one of the more collectible liquor minis in our hobby. But something interesting has been happening with gin in the past 5 to 10 years and it's hard to ignore. I'm genuinely excited about collecting gin minis because gin companies are rewarding me with fantastic products.

While gin as a whole is a slow but growing market in the US/Canada there are some minis to be found. But in countries such as the UK, Spain and Germany gin is KING. That goes for minis as well.





Many companies in these countries make gin minis and the minis they put out are little jewels of proof of just how serious they take their production.



What makes the newer gin mini a great collectible? Attention to detail. While in the US and Canada a good number of minis are plastic (or even if glass have plastic tops), overseas the minis are often glass and exact replicas of their larger bottles. Minis in other countries almost always

come in glass with metal tops and really beautiful labels. Many of these glass examples are not simply plain bottles. They are fancy shapes and some are even released in metal or ceramic materials.

You may think it's just the big companies that are all in on the gin mini explosion. You would be wrong. The independent





distillers all over Europe, Africa and beyond are the driving force to releasing minis at a pace that even the wealthiest collectors would have trouble

keeping up with. It almost seems that now the small boutique gin companies feel the need to make nice minis to keep up with their competition. In comparison, few other categories of spirits are committing to making great looking minis like gin has been doing recently.

So what motivated me to write this article other than David Smith saying please write an article for miNiZ? I want collectors, who haven't yet pulled



the trigger to start think of gin as a viable and exciting option. Selfishly I need more gin collectors out there. I want trading partners for gin which, as I write this article, are hard to find. I also want to tap into countries that currently seem really difficult to tap into. Prime example, the continent of Africa. It's not just European countries putting out

fantastic gin minis. South African distilleries in particular love their gin and pay careful attention to the minis they put out. But try getting minis out of Africa and you will see it's very difficult.





As you can see, I am genuinely excited about gin minis. But it's not all good news when it comes to gin mini collecting. There are some drawbacks to collecting gin and the biggest one is cost. Gin minis are not cheap. Even a plain glass mini



can put you back \$8 to \$9 US dollars especially when buying from England or other European countries. Add in shipping fees and gin minis are not cheap to collect. Some collectors I spoke with feel that cost prevents them

from starting to collect gin.

I think at this point many collectors are still ignoring gin minis as a collectible and I'm curious to see how long that continues. When I trade or sell minis to others it's still vodka, whiskey, tequila and cognac that dominate. But there are some avid collectors of gin and slowly I see more and more people asking me what gin I have available.



Those of you who are fans of the movie Field of Dream know the famous quote. "If you build it, they will come". Well, I hope that quote loosely translates to gin minis. The gin companies are making great products. Now we just need collectors to start collecting them.

Seva Trakhtman

REACH FOR THE SKY – PT.4

Another mixture of bottles for this article, starting with aircraft from WWII and ending, more or less, up-to-date.



The three bottles are part of a series of four from The Whisky Connoisseur. I showed you the Spitfire in Reach For The Sky Pt.2 and here we have the German ME109E, Japanese Zero and US P47 Thunderbolt.

Next we have a series of Rutherford Scotch jugs.



Two Stuka JU87 dive bombers, three Messerschmitt BF109 fighters and two P51 Mustangs. I'm sure there will be more variations of these.



Memphis Belle is a Boeing B-17F Flying Fortress used during the Second World War. It was the first of these aircraft to complete 25 combat missions. The bottle is from Dug's, as are the next three Brothel bottles.

When landing at the Frans Ranch airstrip the pilot of the Beechcraft C-45 became distracted by the girls standing outside, clipped a pole on the landing strip and crash landed where it still sits today. Salt wells brothel burnt down in 2007 but prior to that it was popular the guys from Fallon Air Force Base. Carol's Stardust is in Ely. It was modelled for the M.X. Missile project but unfortunately Ely was dropped as the site for the project, which was relocated in a remote area of Arizona. Reno Air Races is also a Dug's.



The Red plane is actually 200ml. It is from Elie Arnaud Denoix of France and contains XO Cognac. The Sabena aircraft tail contains Scotch from Douglas Laing. Unfortunately I only have a small photo of the Lufthansa bottle. I think it is a Boeing 707 on it. The jumbo is a Russian ceramic that has been issued by at least three companies, two Russian and one German. All contain vodka.



The three Concorde's are 200ml. They are from Gautier and contain Cognac.



The three Rutherford Scotch jugs depict Concorde. Concorde was a British-French supersonic (mach 2.2) passenger airliner that was operated from 1976 until 2003. It is still the only commercial supersonic passenger jet that has run a scheduled service.



It's not long since I brought you these rockets in miNiZ117 so I will end the article here.

David Smith

WAYNE'S ARCHIVE #2

This time I will write about four old Canadian Whiskies. The first is Quebec Royal Blended Canadian Whisky. It was imported and bottled in the U.S.A. for Foreign Vintages, Inc., New York. The bottle is 1/10 pint and contains 86.8 proof whiskies. My bottle has an Alabama tax stamp, not visible in the photograph.

Bottle number two is Dominion Ten Blended Canadian Whisky. It was bottled and blended by Montmorency Distillery Ltd. of Beaupre, Ontario, Canada, and distributed by National Distillers Products Corp., New York. The bottle is 1/10 pint and contains 6 year old 86.8 proof whiskies. My bottle has a 1948 Canadian tax stamp and also a Wisconsin tax stamp that is not visible in the photograph.

The third bottle is Corby's Special Select Canadian Whisky. It was distilled and bottled by Consolidated Distilleries Limited of Corbyville, Ontario, Canada, and distributed by Oldetyme Distillers Inc., Chanin Bdg., in New York. The bottle is 1/10 pint and contained 8 year old 90 proof whiskies. My bottle has a 1927 Canadian tax stamp and also a Florida tax stamp that is not visible in the photograph.

The last bottle is Carrington Reserve Blended Canadian Whisky. It was distilled and bottled by Carrington and Company Calgary, Canada, and distributed by Rogers, Allen & Company, Ltd., Baltimore, Maryland. The bottle is 1/10 pint and contained 90.4 proof whiskies. My bottle has a 1949 Canadian tax stamp and also a Maryland tax stamp.



Based on the state tax stamps these bottle, with the exception of the Corby's Special Select, are all from the 1950's. Strangely, the state tax stamp on the Corby's Special Select makes it from the 1940's. This seems odd even though Canadian tax stamps carry

the date of distilling and the product is eight years old, which would make it saleable in 1935.

As with so many bottles, these would make a fine addition to any collection and certainly do to mine.

Wayne Full

WHISTLEPIG WHISKIES

Seva wrote to me “Hi David, I've been really into WhistlePig recently so I'm constantly on the hunt for their minis. I don't think you have a section for them in the library? I'll send you a bunch of pictures of their minis in multiple emails starting with this one.”

Miniature Bottle Library does not yet have a directory for WhistlePig but I did have a pile of photos waiting to be processed, some of which were the same bottles as Seva's and some different. pictured here are all the minis we know of between us.

Firstly, WhistlePig have a nice web site, <https://whistlepigwhiskey.com/> so I will be very brief in my blurb about them and let you get on with seeing the minis, which are not shown on the site.



WhistlePig is a 500 acre working farm and Rye Distillery based in Vermont. It started out buying and selling a stock of Canadian whiskey but quickly set up it's own distilling operation. All their whiskies are matured in barrels made from Vermont oak, some from their own farm. See – told you I would be brief – go see the web site.





Note that the last bottle is of Maple Syrup - they make that on the farm too.

Seva Trakhtman & David Smith

HISTORICAL FIGURES #4N

ROBBIE BURNS

I suspect that this is going to be the longest article in the series. Robert Burns lived from 1759-1796. Robbie, as he popularly called, was a Scottish poet and lyricist. He is widely regarded as the national poet of Scotland and is celebrated worldwide. He wrote in the Scots language, in English and English with a Scots dialect. In 2009 he was chosen as the greatest ever Scot by the Scottish public in a vote run by Scottish Television.

Burns Night is a major celebration in both Scotland and among those of Scots ancestry around the world. His song (originally a poem) "Auld Lang Syne" is usually sung on New Year's Eve, Hogmanay to the Scots.

I will start with some straights this time, all of them Scotch. Arran made the Official Authorised Edition Robert Burns World Federation minis (bottles 1 & 3). I hope the Scotch is better than the title. Arran also made the Robert Burns National Poet of Scotland blend. Burns Heritage is from Morrison Bowmore. The Robert Burns Limited Edition Single Malt is by Scotcrest. Burns Nectar is a micro from Cumbrae Supply.

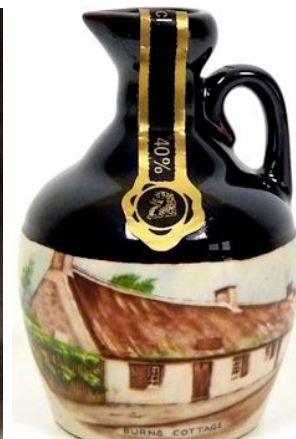
On the next page we have another Burns Nectar followed by a single malt for the Stirling Burns Club commemorating the bicentenary of Burns death. The next two bottles are 'One Special Scotch' from pre-WWII. The first shows his coat of arms, together with a short poem and the second Burns Cottage. This is in Alloway and is Burns birth place. The cottage was built by his father and is now part of a museum.





Miniatures of burns Cottage are quite common, at least some of them are, and they bear a variety of labels.

The first two are from Cumbrae Supply, No3 from McLech and No4 one of four variations I know of bearing the Robbie Burns label. Needless to say, all contain Scotch.





Most of you will know the Beneagles Paperweight from Peter Thomson. This comes in a variety of colours. The Spirit of Burns and Burns Cottage are both Rutherford jugs. On the left we have a fancy Burns Cottage flask from McLech and a Burns Cottage flat barrel. McLech have put these transfers on other shapes and even have a third variation of the transfer.



The two Rutherford books are from a set of three books having a poem on them. Or I should say sets as there are ones with both brown and green spines, and possibly others. The two shown are Address to A Haggis and A Man's A Man for A' That. Missing is A Red Red Rose.

These are three of Burns best known poems. The Rutherford Spirit of Burns jug is from a set of four, all white. Each contains a different small verse.



The two busts on the right are relatively common and are both from McLech. This is the only picture I have ever seen of the bust on the left. It is from the Robbie Burns company.



David Smith

SPORTSMEN SCOTCH

In miNiZ111 I showed you a set of 20 Guyanese Rums, featuring musical instruments, bottled in the UK by Just Miniatures. They also have this Sportsman set containing Scotch. Back in 2016 these were still for sale on the Just Miniatures web site: <https://www.justminiatures.co.uk/> but sadly they are no longer available, although there are hundreds of other minis. There are 19 of these. I wonder why the odd number?





I have always liked sets like this and so will see if I can bring you more in future editions of miNiZ. I know that I have processed some interesting large sets for Miniature Bottle Library but my memory is far from perfect (not surprising as I have processed in excess of 109,000 bottles for MBL) so suggestions as to sets to include would be appreciated.

David Smith

SOUTH AMERICAN WHISKY PT.2

This is the second and last article from me on South American whiskies, the first was in miNiZ121. We continue our trip with a visit to Uruguay. I am not sure if the Scottish influence is still with us. Some of the local bottles have a measuring tape on the back of the bottle. Is this to show whether someone is stealing your whisky.



The whisky is produced by Ancap. The distillery was built by the Uruguay government in 1931 and was also operated by them. Why can't our government do something useful like that? The distillery remained open for 87 years. Calidad Superior means it is a high quality product. Ancap also made many high quality liqueurs.



The Whisky Gregson first appeared in 1969 by special agreement with Gregson Associates Ltd. Of Glasgow. The first owners were Fabricas Nacionales de Cerveza (literally National Maker of Beer) who sold the distillery to Gilbey's in 1988. Campari bought it in 2001 and they still own it. The whisky has a base of Scottish Malt with the local product added to it. There are a lot of variations of Gregson's Whisky and an unusual feature is the contents amount of 55ml. This is a plastic bottle.



The next port of call is Chile. I expected to find a whisky with an Irish name on it, Bernardo O'Higgins, the hero of the revolutionary wars. He has a soccer team named after him plus another top team is Green Cross (the name Bernardo O'Higgins is everywhere in Santiago – Ed.). But all I can find is Prince of Wales. A clue may be in the name of the importers, Singer & Co. Once again it is a blend of the local product and Scottish malt. A nice old bottle.

Finally we reach Bolivia and the Tommy Lonsdale whisky. It is produced by Destleria Boliviana who were founded in 1889. This is another local product mixed with Scottish malt. The Lonsdale family were original owners of the company and are still involved. The company now seem to concentrate on liqueurs.



To conclude the article we show some Scotch whiskies made for the South American market. King Edward I went to Brazil, Derby to Chile, Sir Edward's to Argentina and St. John to Uruguay.



Nothing to do with South America but a couple of bits of information that may be of interest. Southern Comfort seem to be coming to the party under their new owners, Sazerac, as I have seen three new mini variations in the past couple of years. I was talking to Dave Allen (by e-mail) about the number of Scottish Gins seen

in New Zealand. He feels the gin boom is slowing down and a few investors may get hurt. (Certainly the number of new gin distilleries opening in both Scotland and England slowed down considerably last year – Ed.)

Frank Wynn

XX

Date - Time - Place

Sunday 15th September, 12.30pm, Pot Luck Lunch @ Ruth Wilkinson's, 9 Marine Parade, Paraparaumu Phone: 04 904 3157

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

December lunch - TBA

Sunday 26th 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 to 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.