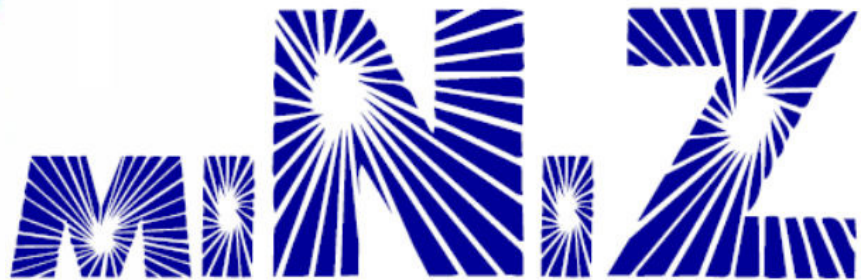


Issue 125 - Summer 2019/20



WWW.MINISNZ.COM

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW ZEALAND MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



Australasia's International Miniature Bottle Club



NEW NEW ZEALAND, THIS & THAT



Our cover bottle this month is a little out of the ordinary. It is a The Lakes Distillery gin bottle in a Christmas cracker. Appropriate as I am writing this in Newcastle, UK between Christmas and New Year and I saw these on sale, in Fenwick's department store, on Christmas eve. They were £6 each as you ask. I did not see the other two crackers on sale but they were made for this Christmas.



Most of the minis on sale in Fenwick's were £5 to £7 so these crackers were a bargain.

Unfortunately I have not seen any new NZ bottles in the last quarter – photos for miNiZ126 please!

There has been a good response with members sending in articles for miNiZ125 – Keep it up – It is a long time since I have been able to say that. Three of the articles, including the two longest, are from our international members, two of whom asked if it was alright to send an article. Yes, YES please do send an article, even if you have to write it in Mongolian and translate it into English. As a native English speaker I am happy to tidy the language up for you. Preferably send as a Word document or plain text (email even), rather than a pdf or a desk top publisher (DTP) format. I can usually convert a pdf or DTP program but not when I am away from home – which is why Rotem's article is not in our usual style (I actually had weeks to do the conversion but never got around to it before leaving for the UK!).



I have only had a couple of photos from David Spaid these past few months so I am letting you see them here. Both are Tequila sets and both should be available in the US.

					
↑ 2014 ↑	↑ 2019 ↑	↑ 2004 ↑	↑ 2015 ↑	↑ 2011 ↑	↑ 2014 ↑
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↑ 2015 ↑	↑ 2019 ↑	↑ 2013 ↑	↑ 2012 ↑	↑ 2016 ↑	↑ 2016 ↑
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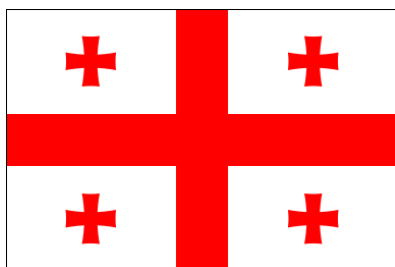
Unfortunately I cannot remember where the above came from. It is a good illustration of how easy it is to look at a bottle and think "I've got that." Keeping a list of your minis is essential but, if you collect variations, a photographic record is a must.

Finally, a bit of fun. <https://talktotransformer.com/> is supposedly a state of the art AI (artificial intelligence) site that generates coherent paragraphs of text one word at a time. Try it out by giving it the first few words (mine in bold in this example).

Miniature bottle collecting is not a new art. It dates back to the late 1800s, when it was practiced by European immigrants who made their living from bottle collecting. It is a very old tradition that has become much more popular today. In fact, it is so popular in Europe that the practice of buying bottles and then filling them with alcohol has become more popular in France, Italy and Spain than it is in the United States. (funny, I didn't know any of that!)

Writers have no need to worry yet as this is the best it could do after a number of tries.

David Smith



ALEXANDER DISTILLERY

GEORGIA

“ALEXANDER DISTILLERY” presents Craft Whiskey “ALEXANDER”

Let me introduce our distillery and our own, unique technology of distillation and making Whiskey, Chacha and fruit brandies. Alexander Distillery is a family owned Boutique Winery and Craft Distillery located in the Qvemo Qartli region, 70 km south of Tbilisi, Georgia. In the winery/distillery we make traditional Georgian qvevri Wines, Old World Style Wines, \$100 hand craft small batch Whiskey, Chacha and Fruit Brandies. We create Authentic craft spirits using locally sourced ingredients: for whiskey - corn and barley, for chacha - locally sourced endemic, ancient Georgian Grapes, for fruit brandies - locally sourced fruits.

Alexander Distillery is the only distillery in the world using Qvevri (huge clay vessels) for grain fermentation and wash distillation. Spirits are distilled using a unique technology which was developed and registered by the founder and owner of this wine cellar & distillery Mr. Alexander Kvernadze. Whiskey Alexander does the whole distillation process in qvevri,

using only one vessel for all processes - mashing, fermentation & distillation - in contrast to the classic method of Whiskey making, which usually uses different vessels for each step. This method is patented in Georgia.

Know The Whiskey

Whiskey Making

Traditional Alexander Distillery

 1. Prep Grains are ground and cooked and barley is malted	 1. Prep Grains are ground and cooked and barley is malted
 2. Mashing Grains and barley are added to warm water, converting in mash	 2. Mashing in qvevri Grains and barley are added to warm water, converting in mash
 3. Fermenting Mash is added to fermentation tank with yeast. Yeast converts sugar to carbon dioxide and alcohol.	 3. Fermenting in qvevri Mash is added to qvevri with yeast. Yeast converts sugar to carbon dioxide and alcohol.
 4. Distilling The wash is heated, turning alcohol into vapor. The alcohol is collected in a second container and is now known as new whiskey.	 4. Distilling in qvevri The wash is heated in the same qvevri by steam turning alcohol into vapor. The alcohol is collected in second container and is now known as new whiskey.
 5. Aging Water is added to new whiskey and stored in wooden barrels and stored for at least 3-4 years.	 5. Aging Water is added to new whiskey and stored in wooden barrels and stored for at least 3-4 years. <small>Qvevri - Georgian traditional huge clay vessel for winemaking</small>

What is Whiskey?

Whiskey is a spirit distilled from fermented grains and aged in wood. A classic whiskey is made using three main ingredients: water, grain (barley, corn etc.) and yeast. Generally in the production of distilled alcohol beverages the primary aim is for the distillate to be of high quality, a bright & clear distillate.

A major consideration is the material, construction and shape of the distillation pot as it is important to get rid of many of the compounds that are poisonous or taste bad and keep the correct balance of aromatic substances (congeners) as these determine the unique flavour of the future whiskey.



Mr. Alexander Kvernadze was a physicist and has access to different academic, scientific literature. After studying the literature he found that clay, from which Qevri is made, is a good catalyst for ethanol steam. This was the inspiration to use qevri as a distillation pot. Furthermore, clay is cheap, an acceptable material in the food & beverage industry, and is good for maintaining a steady temperature. But why qevri and not another shape vessel made with clay? The shape of qevri is optimal for temperature balance.

Alexander whiskey uses barley, a classic grain for whiskey making, and corn (used extensively to make Bourbon), which has its own sweetness. We didn't want to add any sweeteners (caramelized sugar or any other) which is permitted in some whiskey making). After distillation the alcohol strength of the spirit is up to 75%ABV. The corn and barley are distilled separately and are blended 50/50 after distillation. Using our technology we don't need final filtration as it was effectively done during distillation.



Before the spirit is placed into American White Oak barrels for aging it is diluted to 65%ABV using spring water with low mineralization. During each year of maturation about 2% of the spirit is lost through natural evaporation. This phenomenon is called as "Angel's Share" and explains why older whiskeys world-wide are less available and more expensive to buy. Before bottling the same spring water is also added to the whiskey and diluted to 45%ABV.

Craft Whiskey "Alexander" is:
Blended malt grain whiskey
Qevri Fermentation - up to 80 hours
Qevri Distillation - up to 75%ABV
Matured, Blended, Bottled in family Owned
Distillery - Alexander Distillery
Bottled in miniature

David Gurgi

<https://www.facebook.com/Alexander-Distillery-481471762229984/>

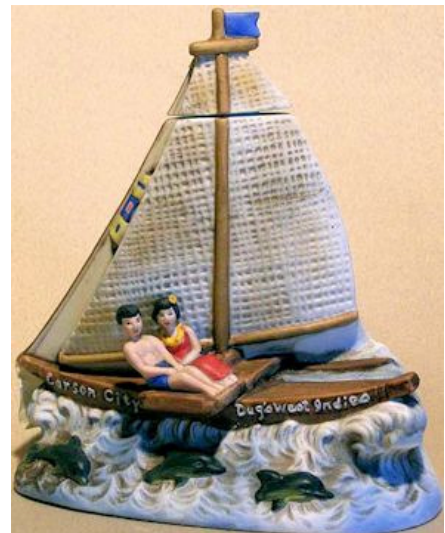
Boaty McBoatface's friends Pt.1

If you do not recognise the name above then you can Google it or go to this Guardian article on the history: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/jul/15/why-boaty-mcboatface-had-to-be-torpedoed-david-attenborough>

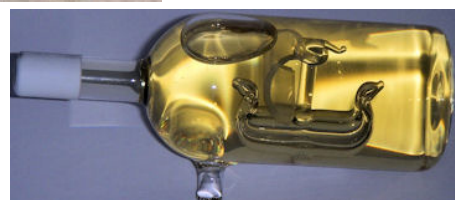
We finished a series of four articles on flying machines in miNiZ124. This is the replacement series and deals with miniatures of things that float (or float, sink and float again in the case of submarines). Many of the pictures will have been seen before in miNiZ but not consolidated in an article like this.



Rafts, or maybe just floating logs, are the earliest form of sea transportation for humans. The two Bladnoch represent the height of Scottish technology in the early 21st century. The first looks like an air mattress.



The Dug's raft can be found with both Dug's label and the Cyrus Noble label. It is called a raft but this is clearly a much more advanced one than the Scots could build. I would have called this a sailboat but who am I to argue with Captain Dug! The Amphora – no not a boat, but these are as near as you get in miniature to the galleys that plied the Mediterranean 2000-4000 years ago. The pointed base was put into sand in the bottom of the galley, providing stability and trade goods (usually olive oil and wine).



The next earliest ship I know of in miniature is the Chinese Junk. The plate is one of two from MBC. The other has anchors, rather than dragons, around the edge. This plate also appeared with the McCormick label. I am not going to attempt to stick strictly to historical order but the Viking Longships probably come next. The two glass bottles both contain Viking Longships. The first from Landy of France and the other containing Tokaji from Hungary. No article of this nature would be complete without at least a couple of the dozens of Larsen Viking ships. Note I have even given you a ship (Russian) on a ship.



The third Viking ship is not from Larsen. It is from Notre Dame, Argentina and we know of 4 variations. Neto Costa of Portugal made the final (possibly) Viking Ship. As far as I am aware this is the only version of it.



Is the Royal Louis a Viking Ship or a Junk? You tell me. There are at least 6 variations. The pink Sam Seng 'Dragon Boat' is self explanatory.

The Rabelo boat, used to transport Port Wine from the Douro Valley to the cellars near the city of Porto. It is sometimes called a barge as it is almost flat bottomed to navigate the many rapids on the Douro river. Pocas is a family Port company, as is Quinta das Freiras. Ferreira is part of Sogrape, one of the biggies of the Port industry.

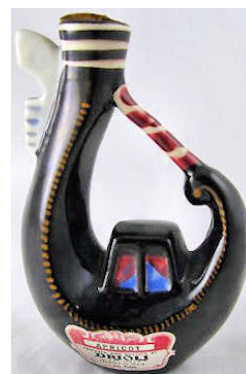




We are all familiar with gondolas even if we have not been to Venice (or Las Vegas!). The first one is a relatively common one from Gagliano, the second, from the same company, is much harder to find.



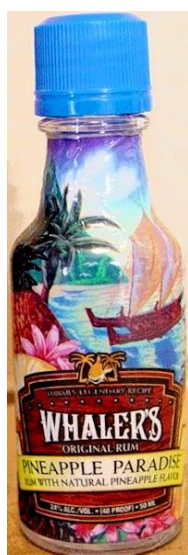
The next two gondolas are both from Luxardo. Although essentially the same, apart from paint colours, note the first has the closure at the top of the prow and the second on the stern. Finally, we have a gondola from Drioli.



The sailboat with the seahorse on the sail is from Barattucci. Their trade name is much better

known, Corfino. I showed you another of these in miNiZ123 – that one had a star on the sail.

We will stick with small sailing boats for the rest of this article then go onto their big brothers, Galleons, Clipper ships etc. in the next article.



Paradiso is from the Philippines and features an outrigger canoe. It is from Destileria Limtuaco, the oldest distillery in the Philippines. Whaler's is from Hawaii and features a Hawaiian twin hull canoe. These canoes were used by the Polynesians to populate the Pacific. Next up is the yellow bottle.

This is from Tatanka of Guadeloupe who have made at least 20 variations, all containing Rum (Rhum). Cape to Rio was made in South Africa for a trans South Atlantic yacht race of the same name. The sailboat is from Manzoni. This bottle has also been used by Linfa Salus.

David Smith



PAPER BEER BOTTLE

Carlsberg has unveiled designs for what it claims is the world's first paper beer bottle made with sustainable and recyclable wood fibres.

The bottle forms part of Carlsberg's 'Together Towards Zero' initiative, which includes a commitment to reach zero carbon emissions and a 30% reduction in its "full-value-chain carbon footprint" by 2030. There are two prototypes for its green fibre bottle. Both are made from sustainably sourced wood fibres and have an "inner barrier" allowing the bottle to hold beer.

A spokesman (spokesperson?) for Carlsberg did not say that these would make bar fights much safer.

[illegible]

FIRST BEER EVER CANNED OUTSIDE THE US



Two cans of pale ale from Welsh brewer Felinfoel, believed to be the first beer ever canned outside the US, have sold at auction for £2,270.50 including buying fees.

The beer, believed to have been canned around 1936, was made by Felinfoel Brewery in Llanelli in Wales. The present brewery building dates back to 1878. The brewer began canning in the mid 1930's owing to a close relationship with the Welsh tin plate industry.

The cans were put up for sale at Chiswick Auctions in London in September with a guide price of

between £1,000 and £1,600. They eventually sold for £2,270.50 (including buying fees) to the managing director of Felinfoel Brewery, Philip Lewis.

David Smith

EuroTrip \ Rotem Ben Shitrit

Over the past 3 weekends I mysteriously found myself on airplanes, jumping between major cities, eating fatty food, looking for bottles and mainly doing nothing except having a blast. The stories you're about to read are all pieces of memories I was able to put together while being sober, so please read them carefully, with zero judgment, 100% humor and who knows, maybe at the end you'll decided to re-think the whole new president thing.

Amsterdam – Not what you thought

The biggest surprise of my 3 weeks trip was probably Amsterdam, where the fries are cheap, the women are cheaper, the weed is cheapest but god, where are all the minis??? So we started exploring the city for all the goods mentioned above (not in a particular order) but no minis... After 2 days of searches we finally spotted 2 stores. Great!

Now here comes the tricky part: Grey Goose for 9.99, Padre Tequila at 19.99, 14.99 for Bunabahiem - all in Euro!

It got even worse with the Absinths and all the crazy cannabis vodka; there you were at the 30-40 euro a piece. Hey, at least it was legal to buy it, right?

We ended up buying these:



Amazing views, but where are the minis???

Amsterdam is a lovely city, perfect views, interesting food and lots of attractions, but from a bottles standpoint, not the greatest. What's so fascinating is the complete contradiction between the liberalism and openness towards pretty much anything you want to drink/smoke/eat, and yet how monitored everything is in order to make sure business owners obey the law. The liquor stores we were constantly referred to were the only ones that

were allowed to sell liquor in that area, which is kind of amazing considering the fact that getting other chemicals was easier. Oh well, next week: the big minis show in Moscow!

From Russia with love (and with s*** load of cognac...)

First time in Moscow, probably the only place on earth I felt more comfortable with my Jerusalem-Ian passport than with my American one, though here's a funny one for you: the organizer of the event knew my story of how I just moved from the States to the Holy land

but he figured that adding another flag to their show banner would make things even sweeter, so i came as the American from Israel : 2 flags, one guy, how about that?



48ML Japanese Makers Mark

Prior to the show Seppo recommended me to visit a local liquor store which was a combination of Hi-Times and Lucas: tons of minis at a very reasonable price. They had a basement where they kept all the really high-end stuff: dusty malts, cognacs and other stuff you can only dream you'd be able to afford (large bottles though). The wealth in that city is like nothing else and every 16 years old is driving a Range Rover or a Benz, so obviously someone can afford these. Makes Manhattan look like Chesapeake, VA.

At the evening prior to the show I had a fine steak at the White Rabbit, one of the fanciest place in Moscow. The steak is not the point, the point was a \$1350 glass of 40yo Macallan I was tempted to buy. I ended up with a \$6 Heineken and saved a lot of lawyer bills and future potential child support bills.

And then came the show.

The show was an interesting combination of a party at a club and a traditional miniature bottles show. There was a DJ and an entertainer who played lousy covers for American and European songs. There were about 25-30 tables with a vast majority of cognac and vodka. Here's the interesting part: you'd expect that with the economy in Russia and with the fact that this place is the birthplace of vodka, everything would be relatively cheaper. It wasn't though.

For example: Chopin set (new label): \$30, Van Gogh at \$15, *** Hennessy \$20 and others. There were some reasonable ones like Kazenka vodkas for \$20-\$25 (these used to go for a lot higher back in the Lisenko-Sullivan days), xo cognacs for \$15-\$25,

Tchaikovsky vodka for \$12 (that's the window one with the dancing ballerina) and others.

From a pricing standpoint, it was higher than St Louis, even for the local stuff, but there was definitely stuff people would find interesting.



The 4 Kazenka vodkas I picked



Russian-Import only Bill Mclean Bourbon

The dominant language is Russian and if you ever plan on coming to the show I highly recommend using Google Translate, or just make sure Seppo is there to save your ass like he saved mine (The guy is like a Navy Seal - you name it and he is there).

The auction was a big show and I kept thinking how Bill Baker would look wearing that suit. It was a combination of a Bingo hall and a NASCAR race and was super entertaining!

Miguel, Jose and Alberto, our Spanish ambassadors did not disappoint and showed up as always (I made sure they'll be in St Louis so no worries).

The whole event took only 5-6 hours which made me re-think the idea someone brought up couple years ago about shortening our show. Overall a lot of fun and about 1/3 of the size we are used to. The rest of the group continued to a traditional Russian dinner and a party, while I had to go back and pack - my flight to TLV leaves in a few

hours.



My name-tag I got

The one thing I did see in common with the Russian show and our show: people seem to get a long very well to a point that it's beyond buying and selling minis.



India-Import Grant's Distinction (Pet)

They got along even better when some dude with a fancy cognac table started purring shots of Hennessy Prive, and if you know what Hennessy Prive is, you probably know that's it's not the Mountain Dew we do back home.

That's it from the Red Front guys, next week: the last part of the trip: Budapest Hungary, home of the most collectible liqueur: Zwack!

Hungary – Goulash, bottles and some more Goulash

Hungary was anything you'd expect from a classic former-Communist Eastern European country: Alcohol in every street corner, burger/doner joints that are opened until 3 in the



Palinka, Palinka and some Jack to wash it down...

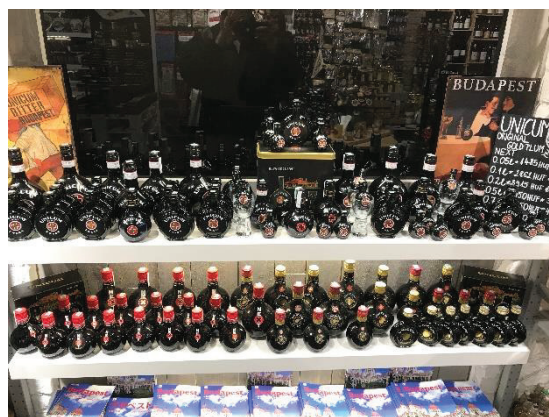
morning and serving drunk people, holocaust memorials right next to Techno clubs, you know, the whole shebang. Budapest was our first, last and only station in these crazy 3 weeks. The city on the Danube River is the ultimate pit stop for every collector (Or a single guy): It's cheap, pretty, has loads of bottles and holds tons and tons of history in it. The catch: If you're not into Palinka, Unicum or Tokaji, Hungary's national spirits, you're going to have to do lots of digging until you find the right

bottle. I got lucky again and stroke a Europe-only bourbon, several Jack Daniel's with Hungarian back label and few other nice pieces. In our very last night we were getting into a grocery store and in between the fruits, vegetables and milk, someone decided to hide a 700ml Jack Daniel's Master Distiller Edition 3 with a box. That's pretty much the same as shopping for tampons in Wal-Mart and finding a Louis13 on the same shelf. On

Saturday we went to Ecseri Flea Market, one of Europe's largest flea markets. Like good fisherman, we were already on the Bolt (That's their version to Uber) in 6:30 in the morning, hoping to find some hidden gems. Unfortunately, all the bottles were gone, but we did find some cool authentic posters from the 1940s that call you to recruit to the SS forces, as well as some pictures of Lenin and Stalin. As supportive as my wife can be, we ended up



Only in Europe: A Menorah and a Swastika on the same table. Ecseri Market



A Zwack Collectors heaven...

skipping on those...

We spent the rest of the day getting ready for our flight, not before we hit one of the prettiest spirits store in the downtown area, where I purchased these few more nice whisky minis at a ridiculously high price, only because my wife purchased a coat from Zara.

The small things bottles make you do in life...

That's it guys. I'm probably not getting on a plane until next April, which is our trip to the U.S and Saint Louis. Hope you enjoyed this one – Took me a whole load of time to write it.

See you!

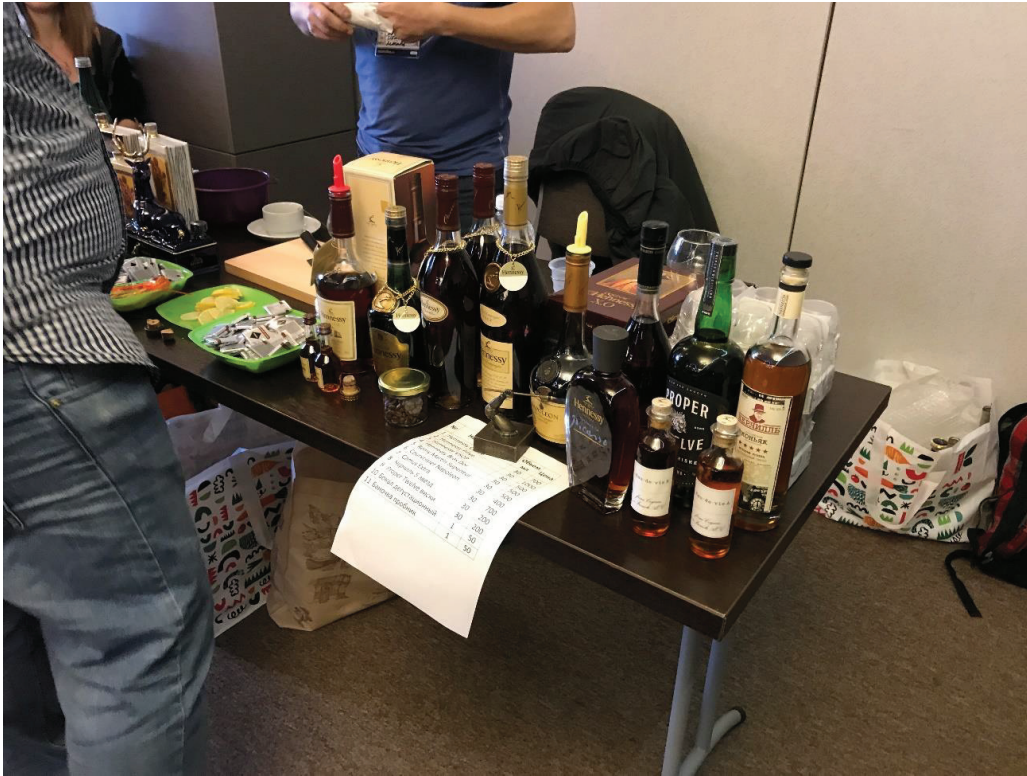


Hungary-only John Reed Bourbon

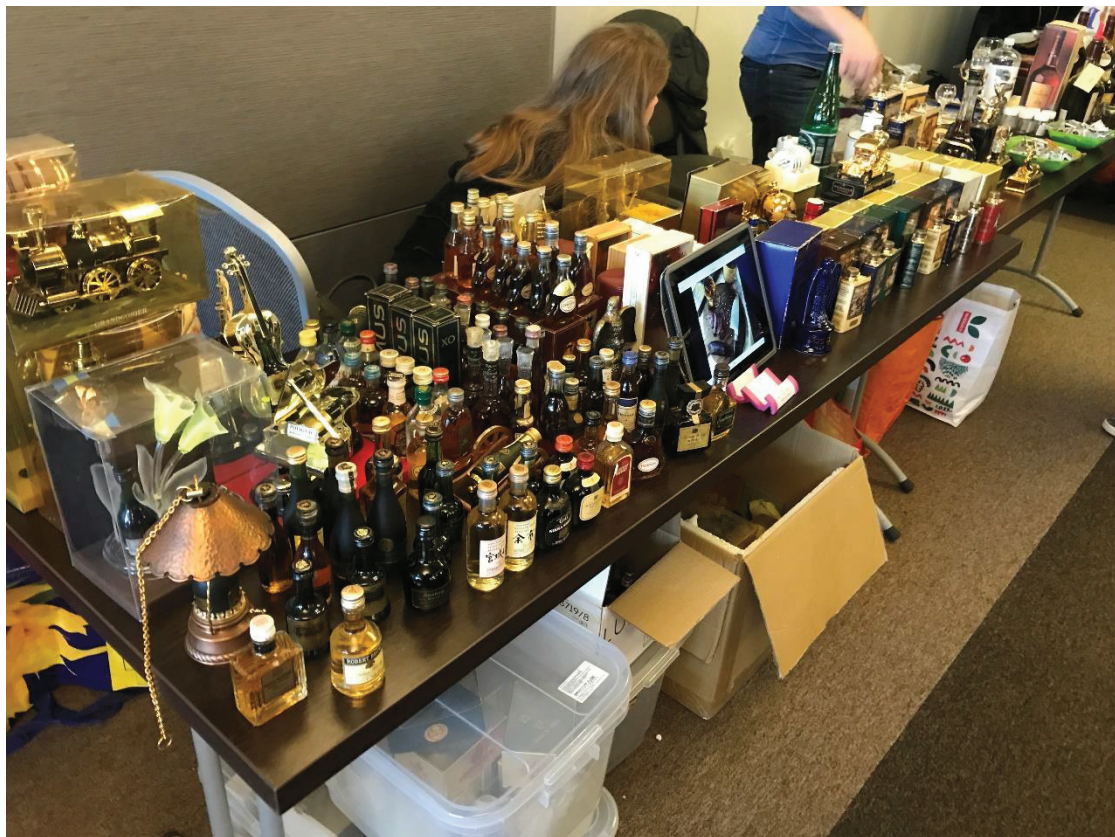
Bonus: Just because you've read all the way here, here are some more pictures of the Moscow show:



Auction Time – Pay attention to the papers, that's how you place a bid



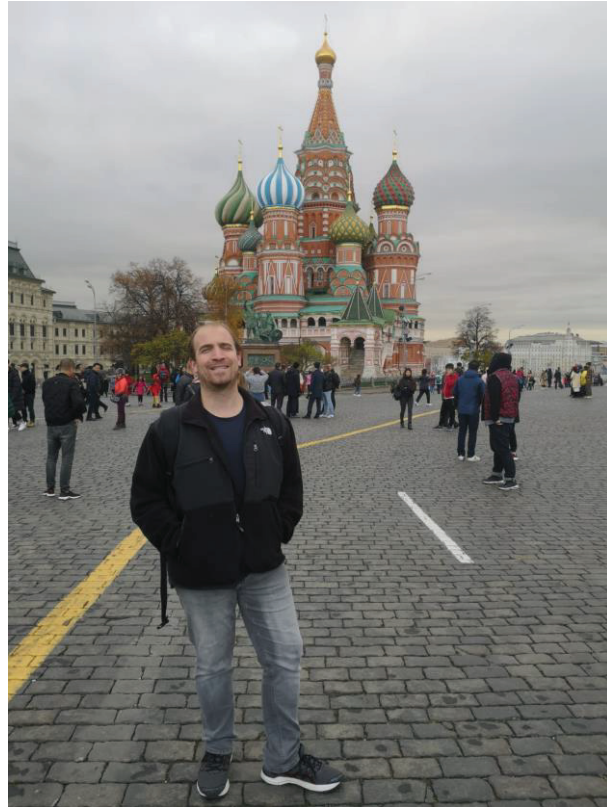
Hennessy shot, anybody?



Fancy cognacs for sale



A good selection of vodkas



Yours truly – Red Square and Kremlin pose

HISTORICAL FIGURES #5N

ROBERT E. LEE

Robert Edward Lee (1807-1870) is another historical figure that will need no introduction to most of our readers. Robert was an officer in the US Army for 32 years, rising to the rank of Colonel, and serving with distinction. He decided to side with the Confederate States in the US Civil War and was immediately promoted to General.

He served as the Senior Military Advisor to the Confederate President before becoming commander of the Northern, and most important, of the Confederate Armies. He served The South well but, when the situation was obviously hopeless, surrendered his greatly depleted army rather than have them slaughtered. This was effectively the end of the US Civil War.



On the far left we have a piece from Grenadier which may or may not be a sample bottle. Next to it is a bottle by Pancho Villa but this has also appeared with the Grenadier label. The above bottle is from McCormick.



The three straights (there are more) of Colonel Lee are a brand that is now owned by Sazerac.

David Smith



AUCTION REPORT



All of the bottles I have to show you this time are from the October All Miniatures Auction by Whisky Auction UK. This was a spectacularly good auction in both the quality of the minis on offer and the prices fetched. I have so many bottles to show you but neither the time or space to do them justice in one article. I am therefore going to hold the whiskies until the next miNiZ.

Let's start with some rums as these are enjoying somewhat of a resurgence at present.



John Silver Jamaica Rum £4. Rhum Demerara, Italian bottled with siglio (seal) £22. Rhum Pepita 3cl (poor label) £40. Royal Macouba Bottled from Georges Monin £4. Appleton Estate Joy 25 Year Old Anniversary Blend, trade sample 10cl £200. Appleton Estate 50 Year Old Jamaica Independence Reserve Bottled 2012, trade sample 10cl £600 – huge price for a rum. Cabana

Finest Dark Rum 5cl surprisingly high for condition at £18. Churton's MAS Old Demerara Navy Rum 5cl £35.



When you get bottles in a group it is hard to tell which one or ones fetched the money. Clearly, in the group on the left, it is not the Captain Morgan Spiced. I suspect it is the Alnwick vatted although it could be the Black Heart that caused this lot to bid to £18.

The final two rums from That Boutique-Y Rum Company were bottled by Drinks by the Dram, part of the English company, Master of Malt. They sold for a poor £4 each.



The only ceramic I have to show you this time is one I would have bid on myself if I had realised it would sell so cheaply. The Poacher (aka The Fisherman) contains 10cl of Bols Apricot Brandy. It was made by Royal Doulton in 1954. This is a variation on the Royal Doulton toby jugs. The others sold as bottles are Rip van Winkle and Falstaff. A real bargain at £14.

The set of French Brandies were bottled in England by U.W.S. £24 seems a fair price.



The two, obviously old, Lerina bottles are also French. £2 is stupidly cheap for these nice embossed bottles.



The set of 8 Villa De Varda Grappa Selezione Di Famiglia bottles are, of course, from Italy. Each is 5cl 40%. £18 bought the lot.

Above are four Faria & Filhos bottles from Madeira: Licoraria Ananaz, Aniz, Banana and one unknown. Each is 6cl 30%. £5 bought these – cheap but then they are poor labels.



The Whiteways fruit wine set did not sell but are up for sale again in the current auction.



The Japanese Gin is not Japanese, it was distilled in Cambridge, England – which is where I am as I write this article. I like this bottle and obviously others do too as it sold for £28.

The Dingle Original Pot Still Gin is a trade sample - £9

seems a little cheap for a sample bottle, especially as gin is all the craze at the moment. Starting the next page is a gin and a vodka, these are from Scotland. Unfortunately they have what I hope are temporary labels. Eight Lands Organic Gin & Vodka are 10cl ea. and were distilled at Glenrinnes Scotch Distillery. £16 the pair.





The final gin I have to show you is a 5cl Mary Le Bone London Dry. I have no idea why it only fetched £2. Belorusskaya Vodka 5cl did much better at £12.

Gilbey's Odds On Wine Cocktail was bottled in the 1940s - £12. Blandy's Madeiras Bottled is a great 1960s bottle. Pity it only fetched £2. Lamb & Watt Jamaica Cream Blackcurrant Rum Liqueur from the 1950s got no bid.



The Appleton Special Jamaica Rum is an Italian import. I would have expected more than £2. The Shipmate Dark Rum from Brown & Pank got the same result. The Sikkim Teesta 5cl White Rum from India got no bid.



For the final two we have two more £2 bottles. A relatively new Keo Ouzo from Cyprus and a Booth's 5cl Finest Dry Gin from the 1950's.

Whisk(e)y's next time.

David Smith

CECBL SHOW WEEKEND

Chronicle of the CECBL IX annual meeting -Toledo 2019

By way of introduction, that's the real Toledo, Toledo Spain not Toledo Ohio and CECBL is the Spanish Miniature Bottle Club.

As usual the first attendees arrived on Thursday (26th September this year), although some had already been on Tuesday to carry part of the Club's material (commemorative bottles of previous years and porcelain miniatures of the Puerta del Sol of Toledo, or empty boxes for the mini of the year (a Macallan 21 years) etc. We brought more than usual as this year we were joined by a Group of Chinese collectors from Continental China, Macao and Hong Kong. This gave them the opportunity to acquire our minis from previous meetings .



HOTEL WELCOME PACK BELOW



The Hotel chosen for this Meeting was the Beatriz, a magnificent Hotel with all type of services, so that some of us even had the opportunity to enjoy a relaxing massage to recover from the long trip. At night, and taking advantage of the excellent temperature, we all enjoyed a cocktail dinner in one of the hotel gardens. This year, like previous years, we were accompanied by our friends from France, Italy, Turkey, Slovakia, Puerto Rico, United States,

Argentina, Uruguay, Mexico, and this year a large representation of 33 Chinese visitors, undoubtedly the largest representation since the inauguration of the Club meetings.

On Friday, to continue with the tradition, we begun our tour around Toledo. The first visit was to the Alcazar of Toledo and Army Museum, which we could only see partially, given the majesty of it and the limited time available to do so.

Then, we moved in two buses to the Loranque farm, one of the farms and wineries in the province with a long tradition. To get there we had to drive along a long and winding road full of potholes and curves that produced a lot of fun for the passengers.





After the visit we were able to taste their three most prestigious wines, which went down very well.



After such a pleasant visit, it was back to the bus and to the winding road. When crossing a narrow bridge over a river, a thunderous applause was given to the bus driver. Arriving back in Toledo we went to eat at the restaurant Alfileritos 24.



This involved the ascent of a very long mechanical escalator and the inability of not a few to find the restaurant between the narrow streets of Toledo. This made for a not very relaxed meal, which we followed up with a walking tour through historic Toledo.





After the lunch, and a break to meet the needs of the coffee lovers, we met with the guides in the famous Plaza de Zocodover in Toledo. After having spent the most touristic part of the meeting, we proceed to the Beatriz Hotel to deposit in the room where we would have our later dinner, those pieces that the participants considered most interesting for the auction, that would take place after dinner. We must highlight especially the gesture that our colleagues of the Chinese delegation had, since not only and in his name, but Mr. Man's Chan, offered to the CECBL's profit several valuable pieces for the auction, commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Hong Kong Club, including a pair of Dalmore Angel's share, as well as the President of the Guangzhou Club, who also offered his last miniature commemorating his meeting of the current year, a Macallan 1988, but in addition, also offered all collectors a miniature of Martell Dinstinction VSOP. Thank you very much dear Chinese friends.

Once the auctioned miniatures have been cataloged, we enjoyed dinner in an atmosphere of great camaraderie and companionship, as the photos illustrate.





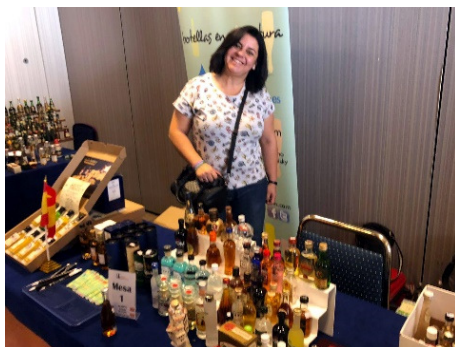
On this occasion the auction was not only the most enthusiastic of all those held to date, but also had simultaneous translation from Spanish to Chinese with some brushstrokes of English and French. Hard to see more languages mixed in one auction; and not only that, but also record numbers were reached.

Set of Dalmore, The Angel's Share (a Man's Chan present)	€325
Torres Eiffel Set – Deluze	€300
Macallan 1998 (commemorative 9th Guangzhou meeting – a Guangzhou President present)	€225
Chivas Royal Salute set (including the brown one)	€170
Pirámid Cognac Paulet	€140

On Saturday, and as usual, we celebrate the trading day. It was held in a large room, where 23 tables were gathered, among which, stood the José Aybar's table, that put for the first time, or the CECBL table itself, which counted with most of the commemorative minis of previous years, except those already discontinued.

The day began with some calm, until the *entrance* in the room of our Chinese friends. I can only judge by the Club's table, which was served by Miguel Angel Dominguez, Alberto Puga and myself; there were moments that we were not able to attend, as between the idiomatic difficulties and the peculiarities of the Chinese "type" of buyer, that is to say "haggling and curious" we almost ended up crazy, although satisfied and tired of so much activity.





Then we shared a Spanish wine in the same place, although with some logistical failure between the hot and cold appetizers, but even without the company of the Chinese collectors who abandoned us in that act, it was nice and abundant.

After the Spanish wine, the Annual General Meeting of the Club was held, with brief summaries of the Secretary and President, and out of which, only the letter read by the undersigned President, which informed all attendees by reading a letter addressed to the Board and Members in general, of his resignation to continue as President of the Club, after having been promoting the creation of the Club, the organization of four of the nine meetings held and nine years of work and dedication to the Club. This letter is posted on the Club website – www.cecbl.com.



Finally and as a closing ceremony, we moved to the Hotel Carlos V where we enjoyed a dinner-cocktail on its terrace, with an ideal temperature and spectacular views of the illuminated city of Toledo. A great weekend party. During that dinner, Mr. Chan and his colleague from the Guangzhou Club, presented a commemorative plaque to the Board of CECBL that had three beautiful badges from the three Clubs represented. Once again, we thank the Presidents of the two Chinese Clubs for their innumerable signs of appreciation

and for their extraordinary generosity in the form of presents for the Club, wishing them every success for the future of both Clubs. 非常感謝您將來對兩家具樂部的訪問和成功。



**SEE YOU NEXT
YEAR IN MADRID**

**Madrid, October, 7th
2020**



Luis Campos Serna

NEW FROM CHINA

I will let these new books from Esoor speak for themselves. They join 10 others from the same company that you can see on Miniature Bottle Library:

<https://www.minibottlelibrary.com/mbi/index.html> (choose Alphabetical then Esoor). All contain 50ml of 40% XO French Brandy.





David Smith

HUSK AUSSIE RUMS

Graham Ramsay




 PADDOCK TO BOTTLE
HUSK
 DISTILLERS

Husk Farm Distillery lies on the east coast of Australia, nestled within the deepest caldera in the southern hemisphere, ideally located with the Pacific Ocean to the east and the Gondwana rainforest to the west. It is here that Ink Gin, our hugely popular and world first, colour changing butterfly pea gin is produced and bottled by hand.

Along with Ink Gin we create Australia's only Agricole rum, made from unadulterated sugar cane juice instead of the usual molasses. *Rhum Agricole* is traditionally made in the French Caribbean, and we wanted to bring this unique, sipping quality style of rum to Australia. On the Husk farm we grow a variety of sugar cane which is harvested and crushed, the juice is then fermented, distilled and barrelled to create our unique and flavoursome small batch barrel aged rums. We also offer our fresh tasting unaged white spirit, Pure Cane.

EL PRESIDENTE'S FINDS

On a recent trip to Europe I picked up a couple of interesting sets. Enjoy.



The first set are all from Liviko, a large Estonian producer. These are also well known Estonian brands.



The Irish whiskeys are from the Kilbeggan distillery which is situated close to the geographical centre of the island of Ireland. It is owned by Beam Suntory.



Colin Ryder

**REMARKABLE UNIQUE COLLECTION OF VERY,
VERY RARE ORIGINAL 17 KLM DELFT HOUSES**

So ran the headline on an Ebay listing sent to me by Erica Mulder. So far so good.... Until I looked at the price.... So nothing ventured, nothing gained, I made an offer....

Thanks! We've sent your offer to sesiomarbed.

 Please allow 1d 0h for a response from sesiomarbed.

- Don't want to wait? You can still buy it now.

Your Offer:

\$1.00

Shipping: See Item Description

Note: Clearly you have no idea what these are worth. They are common and sell for between US\$8 and US\$65 each (the highest numbers). Anyone wanting to buy needs to know what numbers they are and the labels. You're dreaming! David Smith, Mini Bottle Library.

Changed your mind? You can [retract your offer](#).

Buy It Now: **\$40,000.00**

Similar items sold: **\$34.00 - \$46.00** ?

Note that the above is in US\$
= NZ\$62,470

I then got a counter offer....

Remarkable Unique Collection Of Very, Very
Rare Original KLM Delf...

Item ID: 303262371949
Buy It Now price: \$40,000.00
Your offer: \$32,000.00
Offer expires: Nov-19 06:03:08 PST
Seller: [sesiomarbed\(12\)](#)

Needless to say I declined the counter offer.... Making it worse, none of these were high numbers and there were 3 duplicated, oh, and one is not KLM!

The same idiot also had on offer: Very, Very Rare Original 2 KLM Houses With Provenance:
Price: US \$12,000.00 (Approximately NZD18,741). A simple web search would have shown
up hundreds of KLM Houses priced at US\$10 to US\$20 with up to Euro 65 being asked for
very recent numbers. [XX](#)



Sorry, I have forgotten who sent me this article on the Game of Thrones fake Scotches (Luis Campos?). As the saying goes, 'Forewarned is Forearmed.'

As you may or may not know Diego made a series of Scotch whiskies as a promo for the ending of the Game of Thrones series. **THEY DID NOT MAKE THIS SET IN MINATURE VERSION.** However, there are collectors that make "home made" bottles and so a set is available. This set was done by a collector in Spain. There is controversy with some collectors that consider these "fake" since they were not put out by the distilleries, however it is a cool set and I am sure there are collectors (and game of thrones fans) out there that will be more than happy to put these in their collection. (the person that makes them also makes it clear when she sells them that they are homemade bottles and not factory made bottles)

BOX SETS

I have seen a few box sets of miniatures over the past year. Even if the quality of the contents is high, they do seem to be a little overpriced. Cognac and single malts are near the top of the quality drinks league table and I feel this adds a few dollars to the price. Regardless of the quality I will leave it up to you if you think I am being a little mean. (I do not think the fact that I was born and raised in Scotland is clouding my judgement.)

The first set is three well aged single malts from Glenfarclas. This Speyside distillery was opened in 1836. John and George Grant bought it in 1865 making it the oldest family owned distillery in Scotland. These aged whiskies are popular with drinkers but collectors and investors do not put them in the same class as say Macallan or some Islay malts. At \$56 I feel they are a little expensive.



Tesseron Cognac was founded in 1905 but I could not find them in my brandy books. Granted, like me, they are getting on a bit. The reason for the non appearance is that up until 2003 Tesseron sold their cognac in bulk to the large companies who gladly snapped up the quality products. They only produce XO cognacs but the ages of the component brandies are well above industry

standards. The four blends that make up the set are as follows:
 Lot 90 XO Cognac. Minimum age in the blend is 10yrs.
 Lot 76 XO Tradition. Minimum age in the blend is 25yrs.

Lot 53 XO perfection. Some of the blend is 50yrs old.
 Lot 29 XO Exception. Some of the blend is 70yrs old.
 The cost of a 750ml bottle of the blends is \$127.00, \$210.00, \$519.00, and \$885.00 respectively.

The whole company set up is sheer class. They also own Bordeaux 5th growth Chateau Pontet -Canet and their cognac ages in a 12th century chateau. This set sat in Glengarry's for a year before I bit the bullet and bought it. At \$90 it is expensive but I feel it is worth it.



The Elements of Islay Tasting Kit is an annual release with the bottles changing each release. I think this is the 2017 or 2018 offering. The bottles are OC 5 Bruichladdich distilled in 2011 59.8%. Peat A blend whiskies from around the island 45%. CI10 Caol Isla Distilled 2008 and 2009 58.2%. LG8 Lagavullin distilled 2006 59.5%. AR10 Ardbeg distilled 2001 52.4%. All the bottles are 3cl (all the other box sets are 5cl). The set costs \$84.00 and I feel this is jumping on the Islay bandwagon. None of the whiskies are of great age and are only 60% of the other examples. Maybe if they were replicas of the full size bottles that would help.



To show that reputation does count we have a box set of Indian single malts from Paul John. They are by far the best presented of the box sets and are nice bottles. \$35 buys this set. Considering we do not drink our bottles should presentation mean more than reputation? Answers on a miniature bottle please.

