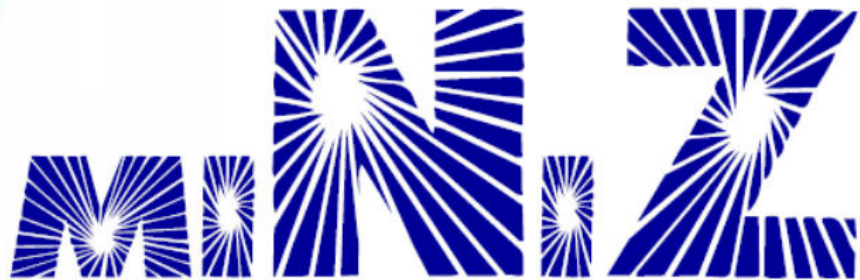


Issue 133 - Winter 2022



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THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW ZEALAND MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



Australasia's International Miniature Bottle Club



NEW NEW ZEALAND, THIS & THAT

In miNiZ132 we had 35 new NZ minis, which was the most for years. Believe it or not I have 12 new NZ bottles to show you in this article plus another 42 from CarbonSix (see separate article, page 23) for a total of 54. My cup runeth over as a collector of NZ bottles but it is not a completely good story – see CarbonSix article.

The cover photo shows three bottles, one old and two new, and I have shown them approximately in proportion. Dr. Hearall's Invisible Business Tonic Radio is the old, and rare, bottle (it is gin but does not say so). These bottles were produced in late 1981 by Seagrams NZ as a promotion for the ZB radio network, including affiliate stations such as Radio Caroline in Timaru. They were given away to advertisers or potential advertisers. The club was formed in February 1981 and later in the year one of the founder members, Ross Page, saw one on someone's desk. Ross knew and contacted someone at the affiliate station in Blenheim and they phoned 2ZB in Wellington and arranged for Ross to pick some up. Ross got 6, one for each member at that time! The bottle has never appeared in miNiZ before as it pre-dates the publication and is in very few collections.

The reason it is on the cover is that I have recently been given a few of them by the widow of a guy who worked for the affiliate station in Nelson at the time. Label quality varies and the best one (the one on the cover) is up for grabs. All members who have written an article for this edition, or who write an article for miNiZ134, will go into a draw, with one chance for each article, (yes, I did decide this before Ron Gabbard sent me 4 for this edition – more of that later) to win this bottle, postage included worldwide.



The second bottle on the cover is 2019 Boysenberry gin from Blush Gin of Rosedale, Auckland. My thanks to Frank Wynn for alerting me to these.

<https://blushginstore.co.nz/> These are all 10cl minis. Shown on the left are the other three offerings, 2017 Rhubarb Gin, 2020 Summer Citrus Gin and Russell Rum.

Read about the final cover bottle, Zesty Citrus Gin, in an article on CarbonSix distillery later in this edition.



Frank also alerted me to the set of four bottles from LWF Distilling, <https://lwfdistilling.com/> from Taranaki. At \$50 for the four, plus postage, these are over-priced.



Sticking with bottles found by Frank we have a final three from The Vicar's Son, Holy Spirit NS (Navy Strength Gin), Frank's Gin (well named that one Frank) and Sacrilege Gin, which is a sample bottle. <https://vicarsson.co.nz/>

Starting the next page we have two good finds from Erica Mulder, both from Smooth Spirits of Tauranga. <https://smoothspirits.co.nz/> Moo+d Milk Vodka is 100% New Zealand. I am assuming that this is one of many NZ spirits and liqueurs using whey alcohol as a base. There are, to my knowledge, three dairy factories in NZ fermenting and distilling the whey from making cheese or casein into alcohol. There may be more as alcohol is a valuable bi-product with many uses. The best known drink made this way is, or was, Bailey's Irish Cream.



Sly Dog is a Spanish Whisky bottled in NZ. Whilst looking it up I came across another Sly Dog, this one a Rum from England – just thought you might like to see it.

After yet another tip-off from Frank I bought the three heads, containing 100ml of Mucha Tequila. They are available from a number of outlets in NZ including some Bottle-O stores, Premium Liquor and Whisky & More, where I bought these and the Blush bottles. Whisky & More also have the 50ml Remy Martin Louis XIII at \$1195 if you are feeling rich!



The Mucha Liga heads depict the three main characters of The League, Bravo, Invicto & Canibal. Not being 12 I can't tell you any more.



These two sample bottles from Sweden were found by John Thiesen.

Pete Gabbard provided the photo of the Midwest Miniature Bottle Club's 43rd Annual Show bottle. I don't know whether any are left but you could try Pete or Ron Gabbard.

The show seems to have been another success, albeit with a smaller attendance due to Covid. I would have been there but for being up to my eyeballs in builders, painters etc. Next year.....



Ron Gabbard was and still is, the editor of the Northwest Miniature Bottle Club Newsletter. For several years now he has also been the editor of the Midwest Miniature Bottle Club Newsletter, meaning Ron is a very busy man. This busy man has taken the time to write FOUR articles for this edition of miNiZ. I would normally hold over two until the next edition but they are connected so all are here.

Actually, I am getting worried he is after my job! He is probably CIA, you know the reputation those guys had for subversion and pushing change of governance. I believe he is secretly learning Italian, French and Chinese to take over those newsletters also! Help me here can you? I need articles from more members, otherwise my days may be numbered and a coup will take place. Also, remember for each article you write for the next miNiZ (and this one) you will go into the draw to win the Dr. Hearall's bottle.

David Smith

RUM : RON : PT.3

Nicaragua. We do not get many bottles from Nicaragua in New Zealand which is a pity going by the Flor De Cana shown here. The Company Licorera De Nicaragua was founded in 1892 and is still family owned. They have a great belief in their products as entry level starts at premium followed by super premium and ultra premium.



The rounded flask bottle below is in the ultra premium level which also includes 18 and 25 year versions. The rum has won many distinguished awards at international competitions. Reports say it is great drinking and at NZ\$8 it is great value. Good to see a quality drink in a quality bottle.



Mexico. From beauty to the beast. This shrunken head contains 6yr old Mexican rum. Although the rum comes from Mexico it seems as if the United Nations became involved in it's production. As mentioned the rum is made in Mexico at the family owned Destilados Bonampak distillery. The family have run the distillery for almost 70 years with the

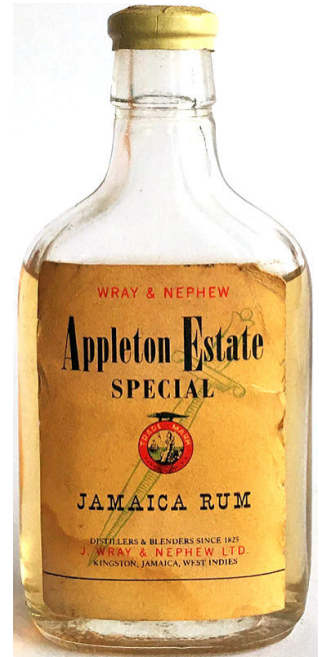


rum made by veteran Cuban distillers. The “bottle” is inspired by the Shuar people from the Amazon jungle. They still carry on the tradition of shrunken heads taken from their enemies as war trophies.

The rum first appeared in 2011 and is marketed by Iconic Brands who are American. They also market the Flashbang tequila which comes in the shape of a grenade. Sales of the rum are going well worldwide though it appears expensive for the quality.

Jamaica. The Appleton Estate was granted to Captain Francis Dickinson in 1655. The first rum was produced in 1749 which makes it Jamaica’s oldest sugar estate and distillery in continuous operation. J Wray and Nephew purchased the estate

in 1916 and remained owners until 2012 when they were taken over by Campari. By the way Nephew actually was the nephew of J Wray and not the surname of a partner.



The most common Appleton brand in New Zealand is V/X which appears in various ages and label variations. It was launched in 1987 with the name changing to Signature blend much later. One unusual feature of the Appleton production team is that the master blender is a female. Joy Spence has held the job for 25 years and is one of the few ladies to hold a high position in the rum industry. She has made many improvements not only at Appleton but to the

rum industry as a whole. So highly regarded is she that in 2017 Appleton released a limited 25 yr old rum in her honour. It is called Joy and comes in a lovely bottle but I do not think it comes in miniature form. However there are plenty of Appleton miniatures around to collect.

Many years ago I gave my father in law a stone crock of 20 year old Appleton rum. After all he was a master mariner. It was so good all I got was a sniff of the cork.



Frank Wynn

Bottle Hunting Across the U.S.

The Distilleries



On our recent trip to and from the bottle show in St. Louis 4 of us drove across country bottle hunting along the way. I am breaking up the hunt into 3 categories the first being the distilleries we visited looking for mini bottles. We stopped at 9 distilleries (although 2 were parking lot stops only as the distilleries were closed. And found glass minis at 6 of them.



The First stop was at Verdi Local Distillery in Verdi, Nevada. They occasionally made minis and when I called they arranged to have some made for us. This distillery was more like a restaurant and bar, that was also a distillery. They had Live music out back on The Saturday when we arrived. They made some of their whiskeys for us. (pictured above) Black Licorice Whiskey, Mahogany Whiskey, Offkiltur Peanut butter whiskey, garlic whiskey, the 27 club coffee whiskey and Lemon Whiskey. They also produce some other flavors (I think they make like 14 different flavors) but were only able to get us these 6.



Abbott & Wallace in Longmont, Colorado was our next distillery. It was also a restaurant/bar/Distillery. They were closed on the day we were going to be there but the owner arranged to meet us so we could pick up some bottles. They made Bierschnapps, Colorado Rye Whiskey, Colorado Straight Bourbon Whiskey, and Fire Cinnamon Ginger Corn Whiskey.

Vapor Distillery in Boulder, Colorado was the next tastingroom/distillery we stopped at. They had a set of 6 different Boulder Whiskies in a tasting kit box. The kit includes Straight Bourbon Whiskey, Straight bourbon whiskey (bottled in Bond), Straight bourbon whiskey (sherry Cask), American Single Malt Whiskey, American Single Malt Whiskey (bottled in Bond) and American Single Malt Whiskey (Peated Malt)



We had hoped to stop at 1350 Distillery in Colorado Springs but when I contacted them to make sure they would have minis, all they had were spoken for and they were having difficulty getting glass bottles so would be unable to have anything by the time we would be there. They did give me the name of a local liquor store that carried their product so I called them. They had a total of 30 bottles, with 6 different ones. I had them hold all of them for me



Next up Boot Hill Distillery in Dodge City, Kansas. This was another Distillery/Bar that was closed but they agreed to let us stop buy and get some bottles.



Bottle Hunting Across the U.S.

The Distilleries



The Boot Hill Distillery is located in the Old Marshal's office on Boot Hill. They had a white whiskey, Bourbon Whiskey, Red Eye Whiskey (in old and new labels) and a Straight wheat whiskey.

This was the last distillery stop on our way to the show, but after the show there was the scenic drive home.



We started the trip home with a stop at Barton 1792 Distillery in Bardstown, Kentucky. We did the free tour and tasting and picked up the 1792 small batch mini, A great looking bottle. We then stopped at Heaven Hill but they were still closed so we took pictures and headed off to Buffalo Trace. We didn't do the tour but went through the gift shop. They had minis but sadly they were all plastic. We made another stop at New Riff Distillery still in Kentucky across the river from Cincinnati, Ohio. The real reason we stopped here was the liquor store in the same parking lot but that's another article.



Bottle Hunting Across the U.S.

The Distilleries



Proof Distillery in Fargo, North Dakota was also another Distillery/Bar. They had glass minis but they were 100ml. We made the stop here to pick up a bottle made in North Dakota for a collector friend that is collecting bottles from every state and only needed North Dakota and Connecticut. They had Minions Gin, Crooked Furrow straight Furrow Whiskey, and Glen Fargo Single Malt Whiskey. They also had a vodka but I don't have a picture of it.



WildRye Distilling in Bozeman, Montana was the last distillery we stopped at. It was also a Distillery/Bar and had Montana Flathead Cherry Vodka, Bourbon Barrel Rye, Five Drops Bourbon Whiskey, Boss Tweed Old Tom Gin, Wild Rye Apple Pie, and Premium Vodka.



I added 26 bottles to my collection on this trip from distillery stops (I did not add everything we found at the distilleries). And this was less than 1/4 of the bottles I added to my collection from this trip. We also stopped at numerous Liquor stores, purchased from a few collections and attended a bottle show. But those are all for different articles. Boot Hill Distillery was probably the coolest distillery we stopped at. A lot of History there and in that town (plus a bunch of tourist traps). The people there were very friendly, giving us shot glasses, cups and stickers since we bought a bunch of bottles. (a couple of the other distilleries gave us stickers too) The tour at Barton 1792 was nice (even nicer since it was free), they stopped giving tours and were closed the gift shop at the end of June, so I was glad we were able to do it before they stopped. They said the minis were only available at the gift shop (although we saw them at a liquor store in Bardstown for 2 1/2 times more than they were selling for at the distillery) so hopefully they will continue to make them and sell them somewhere as they are very unique mini. If you get a chance to do a long bottle hunting road trip (this one was 6,331 miles or 10,188 km) I would highly recommend it. I'll get more into some of details of the trip itself next time. Until then, Happy Bottle Hunting.

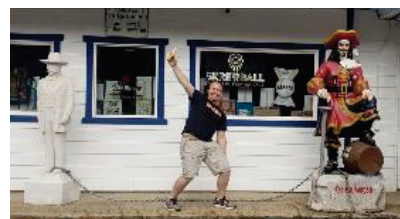
Ron Gabbard

Bottle Hunting Across the U.S.

The Liquor Stores

When planning this bottle hunting road trip, the first thing I did was try to maximize the best bottle hunting states and not worry about the distance (and then after the route and potential stops were planned, gas prices jumped up from the \$3 range to the \$5-\$6 range). So Washington has good selections BUT there is a 40% tax on liquor. We could head through Idaho (State run so fewer choices) or Oregon (again state run, all stores have same stuff) BUT California is a gold mine for bottles (and we would return through Idaho) so it was South we would go. From California we could cut across Nevada (believed to be a good state), though Utah (No minis, they are outlawed from being sold), Wyoming (never had luck there, mostly plastic but hey Fireworks and drive through liquor everywhere) then down through Colorado (believed to be another good state) across Kansas (Had no idea but there was a distillery there) into Oklahoma (for a collection stop and hopefully decent liquor stores) and across Missouri (another good bottle state). After the show it was on to Kentucky (distilleries and hopes for good liquor stores), to Cincinnati (another collection) then across north to visit my granddaughter and pick up a mini from North Dakota (and hopes of some good liquor store finds)

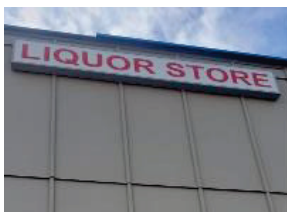
We skipped the stores in Washington because of high taxes and we can (and do) catch them all the time. We made a couple stops in Oregon just to see if there was anything new in the state and we picked up a few things for the show but we knew the next day (California and into Reno Nevada) would be a good day...and it was.



We arrived at our first stop, All Star Liquors, right across the California border before it was open. So we spent some time posing for pictures while we waited for them to open. It was a good start picking up a few bottles for my collection and a few more for the show.



From there it seemed like we stopped every 15 minutes at a new store. Some were okay some were busts but all were fun. In all on that day we stopped at between 15 and 20 liquor stores. A couple of the stores that stand out that day were The liquor barn in Redding, California and Long's bottle shop in Grass Valley, California. The liquor barn had an amazing assortment of minis and it was one of the few liquor stores that everyone in the group bought bottles. Long's had a nice assortment and we planned to stop for a specific Vodka that is distilled in Grass Valley but the bonus was they had a few bottles left that the distillery had made for a charity, with a special label. Needless to say all of those bottles left with us.



We would sometimes pull into a small town looking for liquor stores and other times just stop if we saw a store (or signs) we saw everything from small mom and pop stores to big national chains.



The next day going through Nevada we didn't find much. One store that looked promising (and said it would be open) was not, there were a few decent stores but they didn't have anything new. No stops in Utah and the stores we stopped at in Wyoming either had all plastics or just common bottles. Then we had Colorado. By this time we had slowed down on trying to hit every liquor store, we had done really well in California (and Reno) and we focused more on the distilleries in Colorado. But we still found some great stores. Among them Daveco, which bills itself as the worlds largest liquor store. And Hazel's which was another store we all got something. Daveco had a nice selection, but there was not much we had not already seen,



Bottle Hunting Across the U.S.

The Liquor Stores

The next day through Kansas and into Oklahoma consisted of mostly small liquor stores in the small towns we passed through. There were a few nice finds. One of these small stores had a really cool tequila in the case. We asked if there were more and she had some in a display, a total of 4 bottles and there were 4 of us. It seemed like it was a sign, so we each got one and it became the official bottle of our road trip. At this point of the trip we were stopping at between 5 and 10 stores a day (and also a distillery or 2). Most of what I was finding was for the show and a few things were for my collection. The trip worked out well as each of us collect different Liquors. So we had one person looking for primarily Scotch, One for Vodka, one for Tequila, and one for Bourbons which is probably why there were very few stores that everyone purchased something. We spent two nights in Oklahoma (to have a day for that collection) and after the collection on the way to the show, everyone was saying "yeah we really don't need to stop at any liquor stores today" (spoiler alert for next article, we bought a lot at the collection stop). Then we would be driving along and someone would point and yell "Liquor store" and we stopped anyway. Didn't make many liquor store stops and we got to St. Louis.



Normally the Friday morning before the show is when we do our annual St. Louis Bottle hunting. This year we decided to be more selective and only go to a few stores we knew were good. So instead of the usual 10-15 stores we did 5. But they were all good. By this point I already had plenty of stuff for the show, had already done very well for my collection and wasn't looking to buy. However bottle hunting in St. Louis is so good, I still ended up buying more (either couldn't pass up the deal or found something I needed for my collection). After the show we drove straight to Bardstown without a liquor store stop. We did visit 3 or 4 that evening in Bardstown, found something I thought about getting an extra of, but I already had tons of bottles so I was going to be selective and only buy for me and not worry about any more trading stock. (at least that's what I was trying to tell myself). Next day was a combination of Liquor store stops and distilleries on our way to Cincinnati and our next collection. Two liquor stores stick out from that day one Go Big Blue Liquor was great, not because of selection (they did have a couple unique bottles but I already had them) but it was the dog sitting on the floor in front of the register scratching himself and the owner had to tell him to move so I could purchase something (dog's name was appropriately enough whiskey) and it was all the old and dusty decanters on the top shelf around the building (they were not for sale). The other one was the Party Source in Bellevue, Kentucky. They had a great selection and it was one of Jim Crawford's favorite stores (and I can see why). I found the new compass box set there (and some other bottles I had to get)



Bottle Hunting Across the U.S.

The Liquor Stores

Another oddity from the trip through Kentucky, we were at an overpriced liquor store in Bardstown. He had a couple of bourbons that I already had and told us his place was the only place you could get them, when I told him I had them, I don't think he believed me. Anyway his price was at least twice what I had paid for them so I imagine my surprise when I saw a Rum that I had not seen before for 99 cents and it was glass. HE got a sale after all. After 2nd collection (spoiler alert ...more bottles) we were not concerned about stopping at liquor stores on the way home...oh we still stopped but we were down to only a few each day. A wasn't expecting to find anything new for my collection so imagine my surprise when I found a set of Tomintoul Scotches, in Tubes at a total wine in Minnesota. Just when I thought I was done buying.



One of the funniest occurrences (and it happened many times on this trip) was when the liquor store staff would tell us that either "they don't make glass minis anymore, they are all plastic" or "companies have stopped making minis ". Several times I was tempted to take them out to the truck open the back and destroy their world. We did run into a few employees that were either collectors themselves or found it interesting that we collected. Overall we stopped at over 75 Liquor stores (we lost count on day 3) It is an exciting experience to either find a great deal on bottles or to find something new and unique. We even had the occasional they had one bottle left of a hard to find bottle that we had not seen in a while. I ended up adding about 20 bottles to my collection from Liquor stores but added many more to take to the show and to have as trading stock. I know the other guys added a lot more to their collections from the liquor stores as they all seemed to be buying many more times than I was. Next time the collections we saw (and purchased from) and maybe some of the "other stops" (it was a road trip after all) Till then, Happy Bottle Hunting.

Ron Gabbard

43rd Annual MMBC Show



This year because of trying to stagger the show due to the past two years being cancelled then moved, we held the show in June rather than the normal April show time. Attendance was up a little from last years September show. There were 34 tables this year due to a couple of last minute cancelations. Tequila seemed to be the star of this show, with 3 dealers selling hundreds and hundreds of Tequilas. There were plenty of other bottles too, I just don't remember a year in recent history with this many great Tequilas,

For the second year in a row Friday nights auction didn't have many bidding wars. This was good news for those buying , not as good for those selling. I think the surprise of the night was a box of about 150 mostly coffee liqueurs that sold for \$50. Most of the time in the past boxes of liqueurs were lucky to get \$10 or \$15, if they sold at all.

If I would have know that I would have brought boxes of liqueurs to put in the auction so I could have cleared out more room in my office. Unfortunately I expect that that will be a one time fluke and if someone puts boxes of bottles in next year, they will sell for little, if at all again.



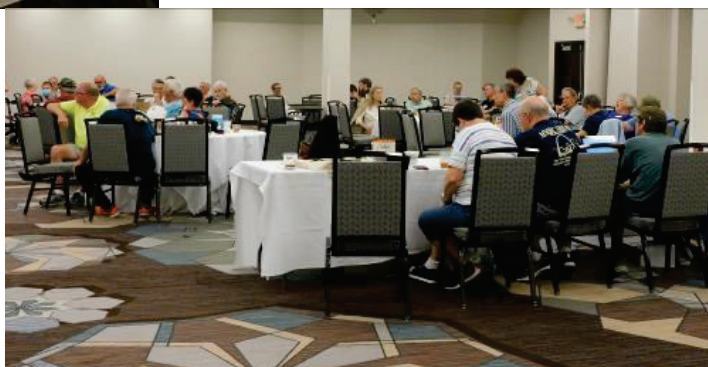
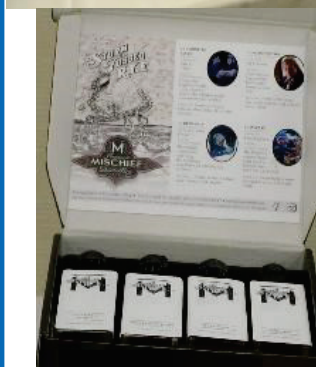
We had fewer international collectors this year with collectors coming from Mexico, Argentina, Chile, Canada and The Philippines . There were a few first time attendees (which may account for that Box of liqueurs selling for \$50) but we were missing a few regulars that seldom miss shows. I expect next year will pick up a little more as more people venture out after Covid.

The most impressive thing that happened during the show is that one of the dealers sold his entire table of bottles on Saturday to a collector that happened to live relatively close to him, so he offered to deliver the bottles after the show. In appreciation the buyer also bought the seller lunch. To sell your entire table AND get a lunch too. That's how legends are born.



Personally I had a good show. I had already added a bunch of bottles to my collection on the way to the show (but that's another article) and I had a wide enough selection of bottles on my table (both new and old) that I was able to move some bottles too. (Probably because if didn't matter if I sold or not as I had plenty of room to take them home unlike a normal year when I need to sell bottles to have room to take new ones home on the plane) I found some really nice bottles to add to my collection and won a couple great bottles at the Auction. I had less luck with the raffles, only winning once but it was a good win. The Collector from the Philippines had the best luck with the raffles.

Sunday was also a surprise, the last few shows Sunday morning has been pretty dead. This year there was a decent amount of traffic and selling happening Sunday. The Saturday night Hospitality suite was busy but not overcrowded and our Saturday night dinner had twice as many people at it than usual. Bill Baker also had a get together Thursday night at his place for people that came in a day early. It was nice to be able to visit with friends (and see his collection) a day ahead of the show. Next years show will be in April again. April 21-23. Hope you can make it.



Bottle Hunting Across the U.S.

The Collections

When this trip was planned, we made it a point to visit Tulsa, Oklahoma. A collector friend had passed away a few years ago and his widow had offered to let us come and purchase from the collection. We had been in contact and she had sent a list. Having never seen the collection we were not sure exactly what we would find, however there were some bottles on the list that we were interested in. As I mentioned in a previous Article the 4 of us on the trip each had a different interest. Bourbon, Scotch, Vodka and Tequila. Well the list we got was made up of primarily Bourbons with some scotches on it so we did not know if two of us would be just going to see the collection.

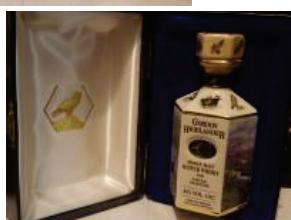
We had planned a full day for Tulsa, we had made reservations for 2 nights at a resort about an hour out of Tulsa. We got there the night before, had a restful evening. Even slept in a little before we headed off to see the collection.

The other thing of note is that when we packed the truck at the beginning of the trip, it was pretty full. We managed to find room for the bottles we had picked up along the way but things were generally full. We unloaded most of our stuff at the resort to have room for whatever we might find.

What we found was amazing. The list was only a partial list and there were spectacular bottles in all categories to be found. Each of us found our appropriate bottle area and started hunting.



This is some of the bottles and some of what I picked up for my collection. I was under full restraint, after all I still had a show to attend and more bottles there. The other guys showed far less restraint.



Bottle Hunting Across the U.S.

The Collections

We left after a couple hours of hunting. I ended up adding just under 30 bottles to my collection. I could have easily doubled or tripled that number but I had to remember to save money for the rest of the trip and also room for the bottles in the truck.

Which brings me to the other guys, they each added hundreds (and hundreds) of bottles to their collections. We headed back to the resort to figure out how we would be able to get everything to fit for the rest of the trip.

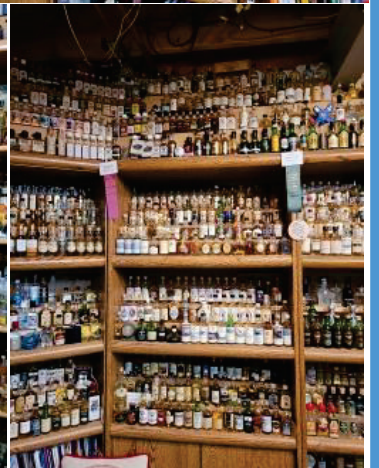
The solution, well Kriss had 2 boxes of liqueurs he was taking to the show to dump, not caring how much he got. Rotem bought both boxes (and we left them at the resort to give him room for some of his bottles and a trip to the Post office (and a ton of packages) took care of some more. I also channeled my wife's Tetris skills and we got everything to fit in the truck.

Next Collection was not to purchase but to see. Thursday night before the show, Bill Baker invited a group over for Pizza, Subs and Beer and to see his collection.

I enjoy being able to see other peoples collections and pictures don't always do them justice. It is cool to see how things are displayed (and maybe get an idea or two for your own display).

Bill does not specialize in any one liquor which makes for a very cool collection, he buys bottles that he likes the way they look. It's like most of our collections start out like, but then never get the chance to grow into since we start collecting only Vodkas or Whiskies and ignore the rest. This collection was much more diverse than mine which made it fun to see.

The last collection was on the way home. When Nancy Crawford heard about the trip she invited us to see Jim's collection and bottle room. We were talking about going into Kentucky anyway so a stop in Cincinnati was not that much further out of the way and I had heard of the bottle room and collection and I was not going to miss an opportunity to see it in person.



Bottle Hunting Across the U.S.

The Collections

I had not planned on doing any purchasing, I had already bought some absinthe bottles from Nancy a couple of years ago. When we contacted her to arrange to come over she told us she would be fixing us dinner and her daughter would be there to help with the bottles.

We arrived, had a delicious dinner and then went down to the basement. The bottle room (actually rooms) were amazing. Even though some of the bottles had been sold and so some shelves were partly empty it was amazing. There are a few "legends" in the bottle collecting world and to see the collection of one of them was one of the highlights of this trip. As I was looking through what was left of the Absinthes, I realized there were some that I had missed when I purchased from the pictures Nancy had sent. So (as if I hadn't already purchased enough bottles on this trip) I started picking out more. Pete went to work on the vodkas and window bottles, there were many bottles he had never seen before that he added to his collection.

When we left Pete and I agreed, the only thing that would have made it better would have to had Jim down there telling us stories about when and where he got the bottles and probably pointing out bottles that we missed seeing.



As a side note the hula girl in the picture below is a Sailor Jerry Rum ad piece. The liquor store I mentioned in the last article had called up Jim to see if he wanted it when they were through with it. Of Course he said Yes.



Bottle Hunting Across the U.S.

The Collections



These are a few of the pictures I took and really they don't do Justice to this collection. It was so well organized and displayed.

To have an opportunity to see 3 fantastic collections on this trip made it even more fun than I had anticipated. When you get the chance to pick up some bottles from bottle collector friends that have passed it is sad but at the same time it helps there collection live on. I have stories and memories of where I got a lot of my bottles, but when they came from a friends collection, they mean more to me and become part of the bottles story. On this trip I got to add a bunch of those memorable bottles to my collection and whenever I look at them I have happy memories of those collector friends.

I also have the memory of a crazy trip across country with 3 other bottle collectors and the bottles that we got. If you ever get a chance to do this I would strongly recommend it.

Until next time, Happy Bottle Hunting.

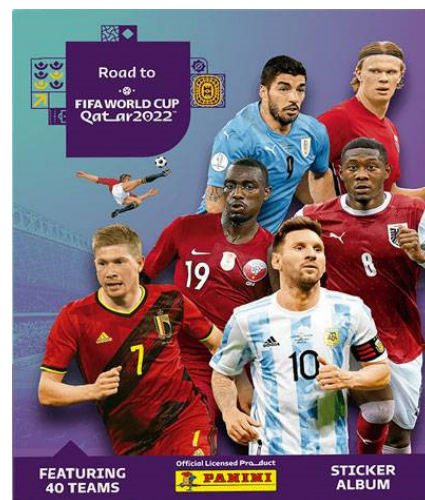


Ron Gabbard

BE A COLLECTOR

Being a "collector" is a label that, of course, does not fit all human beings. Quite the contrary, "being a collector" is a choice that in many cases begins in childhood, trying to complete the famous album of football images, or a set of stamps.

Since childhood, collectors are noted for that meticulousness and perseverance to achieve "the difficult one". However, that moment of "filling the album" also leaves an empty space, and that is why it is necessary either to start a new album, or to dedicate oneself to another type of collection, be it stamps, coins, banknotes, comics, cars, trademarks of cigarettes or any other of the "infinite" type, where there is always something new to add to the collection, so that momentum does not wane. Incompleteness is a substantial part of collecting to maintain enthusiasm. That is the almost natural path that many of us who currently dedicate ourselves to this exciting world of collecting liquor bottles have taken.



Now... what is the point of collecting something? Perhaps it is due to an ancestral human instinct that comes from searching and saving objects for survival (some say that Noah was one of the first collectors since he collected two animals of the same species in one place) or simply as an activity, sometimes collateral to the main one, others with full-time dedication that provides us with satisfaction and relaxation. In any case, whether it is an a numismatist who collects coins from Ancient Rome, or a collector of beer bottle caps, they are "guardians of history", no matter how big or small that story may be in the eyes of third parties. Once the collector has placed the sought-after (and found) piece on his shelves, the monetary value will no longer be as important as the fact of having safeguarded that long-awaited piece that, ultimately, and with the nuances of the case, makes their own history of mankind.

The self-respecting collector, over time, acquires skills in ordering, classifying and grouping, while exercising and enhancing his visual memory, skills that are not insignificant in an increasingly demanding and stressful society. Likewise, the collector feels pleasure contemplating his collection, and it's growth, both alone and when showing it to family and friends, which externalizes self-esteem and inner happiness.

That said, it is also necessary to point out some "deviations" (if we can call them that) that on certain occasions affect some collectors. One of the most important, without a doubt, is to confuse collecting with accumulating, a situation that generally occurs at the beginning, when the objectives to be achieved are not clear. Without reaching the psychopathological extreme known as "Diogenes Syndrome" (accumulation of all kinds of objects in an irrational way), some collectors put together, even "pile up", the supposed



pieces to be collected without being clear about the "why" they acquired them, more than the fact of enlarging the "collection".

In any type of collection there are specificities, and veteran collectors are the ones who have this concept clearer, since sooner or later, be it for reasons of space, money or extension, it is necessary to focus on a certain specialization within the type of collection chosen collectibles.

In this sense, and already within our field of collectors of mini liquor bottles, it is usual that those who start, have done so because a relative gave them a bottle, or because they were able to access one of these on a plane or a hotel, or simply because they entered a liquor store and they found the design of these miniatures beautiful. And so, without further ado, this person added all kinds of liquors to his fledgling collection, with no pretensions other than to enlarge the collection day by day. But there comes a time when, when placing them in the showcases, the collector wonders if they are grouped by type of liquor, by country, by container material (ceramic, glass or plastic), by colour, by shape, ... or for whatever comes to mind. And it is at this stage where the person should consider whether it is convenient for them to specialize in something specific, and learn everything within their reach on that subject, or continue piling up "without rhyme or reason". Of course, each individual is free to build their collection in the way they like best, and there are no pre-established rules... but there are people with more experience who can contribute their ideas and experiences along the path they have already travelled.

For this, precisely, clubs like ours and many others that are scattered around the world are used, face-to-face meetings, and spaces on social networks, where people with more seniority and knowledge contribute their knowledge. Honestly, and I point this out without disparaging anyone- I think there is no greater merit in accumulating bottles and more bottles for the mere fact of "reaching a certain number" without even knowing the origin and type of each of these miniatures.

The obsession of the hoarder, even when he does not have space or budget problems, can give rise to a meaningless race, in which quantity prevails over the quality of the pieces. Today, to give a simple example, a collection of 5,000 bottles of fruity liqueurs from Central Europe cannot be compared with a select collection of 200 Japanese whiskies. Finally: I have no doubt that the collector who incorporates little bottles "one by one", remembering where and when he acquired them, and finding out details of each one, feels much more comforted than the one who bought "in bulk".



Jorge Rey Valzacchi

HISTORICAL FIGURES #12N

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL

Another person that you have all heard of but how well do you know him? I will do a short and maybe a bit quirky summary here but I would urge you all to read his Wikipedia entry, it is fascinating https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winston_Churchill He was clearly one of the biggest over-achievers of his time.

Winnie, as he was fondly known as during WWII, was born in Blenheim Palace in 1874. He was part of the family of the Dukes of Marlborough but not in line for the title, although he was Knighted in 1953 with the highest class, The Order of The Garter.

He started his 'working life' as a soldier, being commissioned in 1895, and served with distinction in a number of theatres until leaving the military in 1899. Strangely, by today's standards, he was also acting as a journalist during this period. Later that year he first stood for parliament, and lost. It was obvious that the Boer war was kicking off again in South Africa and he went there as a journalist, which did not stop him being captured and treated as a prisoner of war. He escaped two months later and re-joined the military for 6 months.

Late in 1900, and still only 25, he finally got a seat in the House of Commons for an Oldham constituency, the first of 6 he would represent in his career. In 1904 he switched from the Conservatives to the Liberals then back again in 1924. He held various ministries during this period,

including that of Home Secretary. However he is best known in this part of the world as the First Lord of The Admiralty, where he oversaw the disastrous 1915 Gallipoli campaign. This was ill advised as the allies were attacking Turkish troops on Turkish soil and, of course they faced very stiff and patriotic opposition (just like the Ukrainians). Thousands of Australian, New Zealand, British and French troops died and thousands more were wounded for no gain at all. Churchill lost the Admiralty job and was demoted.



Winston was back in the Government by 1917 and held various ministries between the two world wars, including Chancellor of The Exchequer. From the early 1930's he was warning of the danger of Nazi Germany, who were re-arming very fast, and the need for Britain to re-arm. On 10 May 1940 Germany invaded Belgium, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands and Winnie became PM, heading up a war time coalition of all parties.

Churchill's war years are legendary and it would be fair to say that WWII would have been a very different war without him (his main rival for the PM position wanted to make peace with Hitler). His oratory in the House of Commons stirred and emboldened the nation. This included his first Commons speech as PM, known as the "blood, toil, tears and sweat speech." The two other best known orations are "we shall fight on the beaches speech" and the "this was their finest hour speech." All three are worth reading in full.



Despite being a hero to almost everyone in Britain Winston lost the 1945 election in a landslide to the Labour Party who were promising many things, including a National Health Service. Although crushed by his defeat Winston remained in parliament as Leader of the Opposition until 1951 when the Conservatives again became the government. He served as PM until 1955. Something I did not know before researching this article is that Winston was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1953. And I should add that he enjoyed bricklaying and painting, both of which he was good at.

Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill, KG, OM, CH, TD, DL, FRS, RA died in 1965 and was only the third commoner to be given a State Funeral in Britain.

David Smith

MADOC SINGLE MALT WHISKY

THE FIRST CONMEMORATIVE MINIBOTTLE OF THE ARGENTINE MINIBOTTLE COLLECTORS CLUB

A while ago, in this newsletter, I had the pleasure to introduce the foundation of a new club dedicated to our hobby in Argentina. During this time, with great enthusiasm and dedication, important series of activities were carried out and many collectors from all over the world become members. The peak of all this will be the "1st International Meeting of the Argentine Club of Mini Bottle Collectors" held in Buenos Aires City on August 13th-14th, 2022. Throughout the weekend, as in other similar meetings, we will carry out various activities dedicated to fostering ties between attendees. As part of the event we have made a commemorative bottle for our first anniversary.



For this opportunity, a miniature was selected that contains not only an attractive product for collectors but also a quality well-made piece that represents one of the best examples of collectible pieces made in southern Argentina. It is a miniature bottle of Madoc single malt whiskey, whose first edition consisted of five hundred pieces and sold in a very nice presentation pack with bonbons a couple of years ago in the Rapanui chocolate stores from our

country. This great miniature was made in Dina Huapi, a locality sited near the well known Bariloche City, Río Negro province in the Northwest Argentine Patagonia region.

The distillery was founded in 2015 by Pablo Tognetti, an outstanding

experimental physicist. Due to professional reasons, he spent several years living in Manchester (U.K.), where he had an approach to malts distillation. In Argentina, at the beginning of the 1980's, he started making beer to share with his friends. This knowledge of malts' distilling evolved into whisky production during the 1990's.

In 2011 he was one of the creators of La Alazana single malt whisky as reported in newsletter two earlier this year. However, in 2015 he decided to launch his project of the craft distilled single malt whiskey depicted in this article. His name "Madoc" is from the Welsh Prince Madoc that, according to the legend, sailed to America in 1170 to



start a new peaceful life. This was about three hundred years before Christopher Columbus's voyage in 1492.

After his retirement in 2008, Dr. Tognetti designed and directed the manufacture of copper distillation stills and the making of other equipment used for whisky production. As can be seen, the stills have a very high neck. Among the equipment that stands out is a 2,000-litre cooking pot and the two aforementioned copper stills, where 'mash' is cooked and distilled, then run into an oak barrel. There are two cellars for storage, in the first, there are a hundred barrels and in the second there is room for another 300. Production is estimated at around 6,000 liters per year.

The Patagonian Madoc single malt whisky is crafted using only Argentine Pilsen malts, spring water from the thawing of Andean Patagonian glaciers, and brewing yeasts. The 750 ml content bottle is nicely presented in an excellently designed box. Worth mentioning that in 2018 and 2019, this whisky respectively won a silver medal and a double gold medal at the "San Francisco World Spirits Competition".



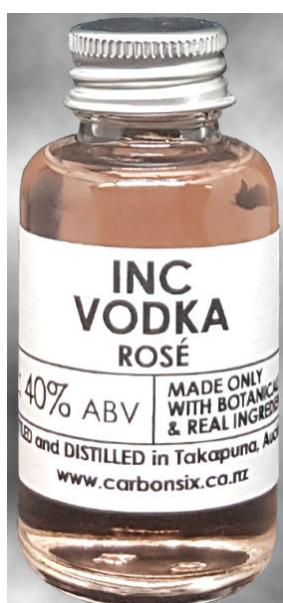
Like the first edition, the commemorative miniature was made using a clear glass bottle topped with an aluminum cap covered by a heat-sealed black plastic capsule. It also has two labels. The one on the front is similar to the previously made piece but with the difference that in its lower portion shows the following legend: "CLUB ARGENTINO DE COLECCIONISTAS DE BOTELLITAS." The label on the back is different from those used in the previous one. It shows the club logo and tells us that it is a limited commemorative edition of our first anniversary. In the lower part, it is the place to write the number of the piece corresponding to a limited edition of one hundred hand-numbered pieces.

As a final comment, I am happy to share the release of this miniature bottle. For many of us, it will be proudly exhibited in our showcases.

Hugo G. Nami

CARBONSIX

Frank Wynn told me about the CarbonSix distillery. There are 21 different miniatures on their web site, 11 Gins, 9 Vodkas and one Rum. Curiously the rum is named Bay Rum and this used to be the name of an aftershave! Having just written that I Googled it and was amazed to find you can still buy Bay Rum aftershave. I wonder what the rum tastes like?



Anyway, back to the minis. You can order them in packs of 6, 9 or 12 and chose the ones you want in each. Ordering a 9 and a 12 got me all of them, except it didn't – keep reading. The price, by current standards in NZ, is reasonable. They cost me an average of just under \$6 each including rural delivery.



They were delivered and upon opening them I found I had 21 square flask minis instead of the 21 round minis shown on the web site. Oh, and the labels are also different.

I contacted CarbonSix carefully explaining that the bottle shape and label make a difference to a collector and this is the reply from Rufus at Carbon Six: *"We'd usually supply our mini packs in the round bottles; however our supplier had run out of stock on them for the past few months and we haven't had the chance to get them in yet. Thus meanwhile, we could only use the square bottles for now. We have been getting good feedback on these square bottles though but*





we're still considering changing over permanently. So the minis as of now will be what you've received. We do apologize for the inconvenience. It is not actually an inconvenience except for the fact that I need now to find the round bottles with the old labels and, if they do go back to round bottles, they are likely to use the labels from the square bottles, or new ones completely, not the old ones. And the same day this email exchange happened Frank went there and picked up a set, only to discover they were square bottles when he got home.



I do like the labels on the round bottles that claim to have "Real Ingredients." Is that as opposed to imaginary ingredients? Dog sick would be a real ingredient but I doubt that any of their bottles contain it!



After all that I have to say that it is nice to see a local distillery turning out a good range of minis and, as a bonus, both sets of bottles are glass and there are some unusual flavours that get around copyright issues: Snickers (Snickers), MNM (M&M's) and Skittles (skittles).

Seventeen bottles shown. The other flavours are Clear Vodka, Apple Gin, Zesty Citrus Gin (on cover) & Pineapple Gin.

David Smith



AUCTION REPORT



A bit of this and a bit of that this time. As I write this a Whisky Auction is only a couple of days off finishing but, as there does not appear to be anything spectacular in it (with one exception) I will report on it in the next miNiZ.



Many, many rums were bottled in the UK during the 20th century and the first two are bottled in Scotland, the third in England. At first glance the two Black Jo appear to be the same, however there is a subtle difference in the labels (ignoring the fact that the second one is a little faded), and in the bottles. Whisky Auction says that the left one is 1960's and the right 1970's but I think that they have got this the wrong way around as the bottles with the ring around the neck were generally the earlier bottle. The first went for £40 and the second for £35. Wood's Old Navy sold for a respectable £20. Unfortunately the Antiguan bottled Cavalier Antigua Rum and the Italian Pallini Rum Di Fantasia Oro only sold for £6 each.





The first four gins are all from England, the home of London Dry, although not the home of gin. That honour goes to The Netherlands. The two Nelson's are both 5cl and sold as a pair for £20. Batch is 100ml and sold for only £7. The J G Mooney Finest old Dry dates from the 1950s'. Sorry but I do not know the capacity but I can tell you it sold for a respectable £18. Seven Hills VII Italian dry did OK at £9. I am fairly sure this is a 50ml bottle. Lastly for the gins we have the nicely presented Old Pilot from Croatia. Again probably 50ml although there are some 40ml bottles this shape. It sold for £12.



Three Vodkas for you from three different countries. Huzzar is from Ireland and is an unusual size, 71ml. It sold for a disappointing £3. Czar Alexander is a 1950's Dutch Vodka from the N.V. Distillery in Amsterdam. I think that the £22 it sold for was top of the market. Buton from Italy made the Stefanof Imperial Vodka. This is not a common bottle, although many of you will be familiar with the Buton Dice bottles as many more of these have been made. These use the same bottle only black instead of white for the dice. £14 seemed about right.



I am not familiar with Hinch or Hyde Irish Whiskies but there has been an explosion in Irish brands in the last few years. Hinch 5 Year Old Double Wood is a 5cl. £22 seems reasonable but £20 for the next bottle seems stupidly cheap. Hyde No.6 President's Reserve 1938 is a Trade Sample bottle with a Sherry Cask Finish. So, a 5 year old for £22 and an 80+ year old for £20 – NUTS!

Mitchell's Shamrock is a 14 Year Old Blended Irish Whisky from Belfast, hence whisky not whiskey. It was bottled in the 1930's or 40's is 1/10pint and a US import. £80 seems high considering some idiot has covered the top in wax, which is difficult to remove.

Japanese Whisky is going through a boom period at the moment. Top collectable Japanese whiskies can, and often do, sell for more than top Scotches. I'm talking full bottles, not miniatures, but the top Japanese Whisky minis are catching up fast.



Suntory Royal, a 1980's 5cl bottle sold for £14. A high price I thought for a relatively common blended Japanese whisky. Suntory Gold Blended Whisky is a 5cl 1970's bottle, and not a common one. Making it even more uncommon it is a Russian import. £40 sounds right. The next two are both from Nikka. The first is a blend of Maltbase Whisky and the second is known as Tsuru. This was bottled in the 1990's. Both are 5cl. The first sold for £26 and the second for £45.



The Ocean Karuizawa distillery was closed a number of years ago but stocks remained, quietly maturing in barrels. These are gradually being released and are commanding huge sums. £160 for this straight malt miniature was cheap – very cheap.

Five US Whiskies but only four Bourbons. The first bottle, as you can see, is a Maryland Straight Rye 7yo, 1/10pt Whiskey. K&L was a brand of Standard Distillers Products Inc., once a huge force in the US Whiskey



industry. They made large quantities of miniatures, hence this 1960's bottle only selling for £20. Walker's DeLuxe is an Ohio distilled bourbon from the 1940's. Again, a relatively common bottle which sold for £18. Red and Gold, supposedly from Red & Gold Distillery (a distillery that has never existed) is a 1990's 15yo Bourbon bottled at 101 proof in a 50ml bottle - £22. Johnny Drum is from another distillery that never existed. It is believed to currently be distilled by KBD (Kentucky Bourbon Distillers). Johnny Drum is however highly regarded by Bourbon Drinkers and seemingly mini collectors as well as this one sold for £70. It is a 50ml 15 Year Old Private Stock, single barrel Bourbon. Rock Hill Farms is another highly regarded Whiskey, a Sazerac product from Buffalo Trace Distillery. This is a 50ml bottle - £75 bought it.

Now we come down to Earth with a bump. Brandy, if it's not Cognac it will not sell well!



Short's London bottled French Brandy £6. Gonzalez Byass Soberano Spanish Brandy, Italian import, £5. Larios Spanish Brandy Viejisimo, £3. Five Cyprus Brandies from Haggipavlu & Keo £14. Three Spanish Brandies, two of them figurals, £2 – Crumbs! Even the Cles des Ducs 100ml Armagnac in the bunch of grapes sold very poorly, and Armagnac is generally quite collectable - £4. I hope these sellers have better luck next time.

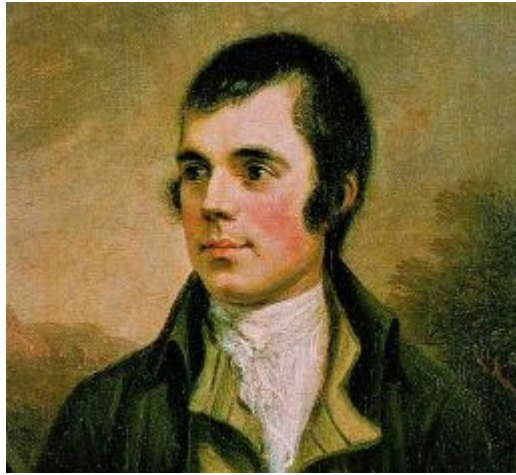
David Smith

A MAN, A MOUSE AND A SAILING SHIP

At the first glance, the juxtapositions in the title seem at least strange, if not intriguing, but they have something to do with three of the whisky miniatures in my collection. Of course, for some of the collectors, things are clear when they see the three scotch miniatures below. But I dare say, not for most of them. For them, I will present below, briefly, the motivation of the associations in the title of the article.



As you can see from the first miniature, the character represented is Robert Burns, considered the national poet of Scotland (1759 - 1796). The miniature is a blended scotch, but there is also a single malt miniature, just like the 700 ml bottles. The whiskey is produced by Isle of Arran Distillers, Lochranza, Scotland. The miniature has a volume of 50ml and 40% vol. Alc.



Robert Burns, who died prematurely at the age of only 37, left many poems to his posterity (about 550), which made him considered a forerunner of romanticism.

Two of these poems, *To a Mouse* and *Tam o'Shanter*, are directly related to the other two Scottish miniatures below.

In the first poem entitled *To a Mouse*, written in 1786, the main character is a shy field mouse, whose nest is accidentally disturbed by the author while working in the field. Considered one of Burns' most beautiful poems, his lyrics reflect the poet's sadness and despair for unwittingly ruining the home of such a small, timid, and helpless being:

“Little, cunning, cowering, timorous beast,

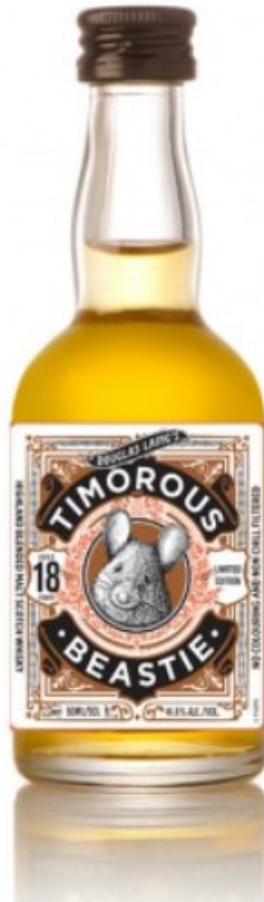
Oh, what a panic is in your breast!”

.....

“Your small house, too, in ruin!

Its feeble walls the winds are scattering!

And nothing now, to build a new one”



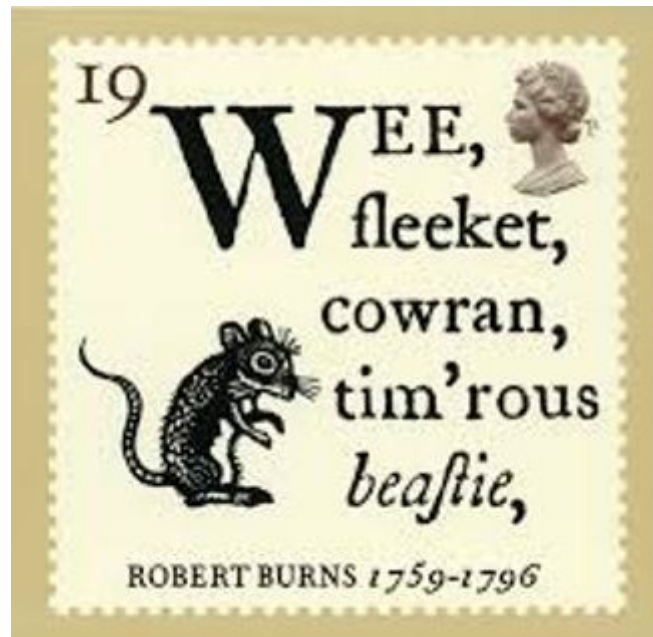
In the last verses of the poem, his regrets constitute a reflection on a life of struggle, with few satisfactions and an uncertain future:

“I backward cast my eye,
On prospects dreary!
And forward, though I cannot see,
I guess and fear!”

The miniature presented, *Timorous Beastie*, is an 18-year-old blended malt Scotch, produced in the Highlands by Douglas Laing & Co. Ltd, 50ml volume and 46.8% alc. Whisky miniatures with various aging years have been produced, as well as 700ml bottles.

Burns' mouse was also honored on a U.K. postage stamp, which reproduces the first verses (in the original Scottish dialect) of the poem *To a Mouse*.

As a tribute to the poet, a statue of the famous mouse was unveiled in Scotland. The bronze statue, about 2m high, is the work of the Scottish sculptor Kenny Hunter and is located in Alloway, Ayrshire, Scotland, the poet's birthplace.



The third miniature, *Cutty Sark*, is named in memory of the ship (clipper type), built in 1869 and considered one of the fastest of its kind in that period. Used mainly for transporting tea (from China), wool and tallow (from Australia) to England, the ship was famous for the fastest travel from New South Wales to London (82 days) and kept this record for 10 years.



Cutty Sark clipper photographed at sea

Cutty Sark is the nickname of the witch Nannie Dee from Robert Burns' poem Tam o' Shanter. She took part in a witches' dance in a forest where Tam passed, riding and having fun. Seeing Nannie wearing a dress (sark) too short (cutty), the hero of the poem shouted "well-done Cutty-Sark!" and the witches went after him, as mortals were not allowed to attend their dances.

Following Tam, who galloped toward the river (according to folklore, witches can't cross flowing waters), the fastest witch was Nannie Cutty-Sark, who caught up with him, grabbed his horse's tail but all she got was the tail in her hand; Tam crossed the river, escaping safely.

The fastest ship of that time was named after the fastest witch, and on the bow of the ship, under the bowsprit, is a sculpture of Nannie Dee holding a ponytail.



The poem ends ironically with a warning to men about the devilish consequences of thoughts about women in skimpy clothes.

In 1954, the famous ship became a museum, anchored in the dry dock at Greenwich, south-east London, near the National Maritime Museum.

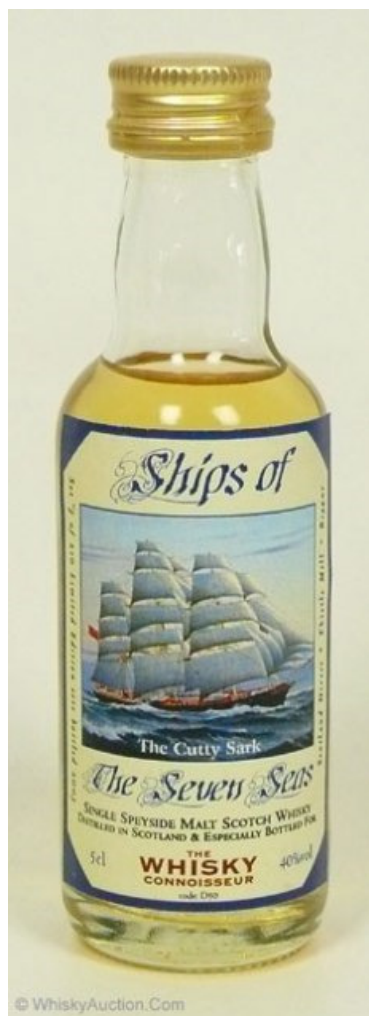
Cutty Sark is a blended whiskey and was first produced in March 1923 at Glenrothes Distillery in Speyside by Berry Bros. & Rudd. Berry Bros. & Rudd is Britain's oldest wine and spirits merchant, and one of the ten oldest family-run businesses in the UK. It was founded by the Widow Bourne in 1698 at 3 St. James's Street, London, which today is a Grade II listed building still used as the company's headquarters.

It is currently marketed with different maturation ages and alcohol volume of 40% and 43%, 700ml. There are also now, or have been, a number of variations including Cutty 12, Cutty Black, Emerald, Imperial Kingdom, Prohibition Edition and Storm, all of which have been made in miniature.

In 2010 Cutty Sark was sold to Edrington Group who, after a few years, decided it did not fit in with their portfolio. The Brand was bought in 2019 by French Group, La Martiniquaise-Bardinet and fits well with their portfolio which includes Label 5 & Sir Edward's Scotch, Glen Moray Malt Scotch, Poliakov Vodka, Porto Cruz, Negrita, Saint James Rum and Bardinet liqueurs.



As a curiosity, there is another miniature with the image of the ship Cutty Sark, but produced by The Whiskey Connoisseur in 2003, in the series *The Seven Seas*:



For the numismatists, in 2011, the Republic of Belarus issued two commemorative coins with the image of the ship, coins made at the Polish Mint.

Horia-Dan Mitroiu



Sunday 21st August, Pot Luck 12.30pm, Ruth Wilkinson's, 9 Marine Parade, Paraparaumu. 04 904 3157
 Sunday 16th October, Pot Luck 12.30pm, David & Rosie Smith's, 73 Otaki Gorge Road, Hautere 027 275 7712

The 2023 AGM will be on Sunday the 19th February. There will be a barbecue lunch starting at 12.30 with the AGM about 2.30 @ Di Ryder's, 20 Prospect Terrace, Johnsonville, Wellington.

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