

MINIz

XXXXXXXXXXXX THE NEWSLETTER OF PORT NICHOLSON MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX



THE ONLY MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB IN AUSTRALASIA
WITH A NATIONWIDE AND INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP



EDITORIAL

Well, here we go with another bumper four month edition. MiNiZ is meant to be published every two months, but two factors sometimes prevent that. The first is a lack of time by Jackie and myself - it takes about three days work each to produce miNiZ. This is a problem and was certainly why the last miNiZ was late, but it is not the major problem this time.

LACK OF SUPPORT from the membership means that I have very little to edit as editor. I have said it before, and will say it again, unless I get support from the members, i.e. you, I cannot produce a newsletter. Only two or three members ever tell me of new bottles they have found. A good example would be the two KIWIFRUIT LIQUEURS shown elsewhere in this issue. One member knew about them for months and never let us know - share your knowledge either by writing an article or by telling us what you have seen that's new.

MiNiZ is the life blood of the club. For more than three quarters of our membership it is generally impossible to attend meetings, for them (You?) no miNiZ, NO CLUB! - enough said.

David & Jackie Smith

COVER BOTTLES

On the cover are shown three out of a set of six bottles made exclusively for the Dansey's Pass Hotel in Central Otago. Shown are VODKA, SHERRY and WHISKEY, missing are GIN, BACARDI and BRANDY. All follow the same theme with the hotel and writing at the bottom in Blue and the "Scroll" in Red.

The Dansey's Pass Hotel has sold many standard bottles in the past with a hotel sticker on. These are the first ones to be made especially, and the club is the only place you can buy them, other than at the hotel.

These bottles are available ex the club for NZ.\$4.00 each plus postage. They are to special order only. Please let our new Supplies Officer, Dianne Opie (RD.2, Patea, Taranaki, N.Z.) know if you want any, and if so, how many of each.

DO IT WITHIN 2 WEEKS OF RECEIPT OF THIS ISSUE OF MINIZ OR YOU WILL LOOSE OUT.

GUARDIANS OF TASTE

As promised we have received 32 bottles that were especially made for the 13th Anniversary of the Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance Company Wine Club.

First come, first served - see Buy Sell and Swap.



PACIFICA SHIPPING

I mentioned in the last miNiZ a bottle done especially for the third birthday of Pacifica Shipping. Shown below is the Gin bottled for the launch of "The Spirit of Free Enterprise", (Since sold as the service was going bust!) the first birthday bottle (both sides, also a gin) and the 3rd. birthday (whisky) bottle. (There was no second birthday bottle as around that time this company was close to going under)



THE NEWZEALANDERS - OLD BRANDIES

Illustrated are 6 brandies either bottled in New Zealand or for the New Zealand market. All are old bottles and can be considered rare. The first is a 3* French Brandy by J. BERTRAND AND COMPANY. This was imported by Milne, Bremner Limited of Dunedin. This company used to import a lot of miniatures and also did some bottling. The second bottle is a VSOP Cognac also by Bertrand and imported by Milne Bremner. These are the only two New Zealand Bertrand Brandies that we know of, but we feel sure that there was more. If you have another please let the club know.

The next two bottles are both CH. DECAUMONT AND COMPANY, 3* French Brandy. One was imported by J. Anthony Rayner and Company, Auckland, the other by Hardwicke and Robertson Limited, Wellington. This label has appeared around the world with a number of importers names on. I used to have the same brandy with a Hong Kong importer on. This was shown illustrating "Cocktail of the Month" in the Dec. 86/Jan.87 miniz. Note that there are some slight differences between the two labels, a sure sign that they were imported at different times.

Last but definitely not least, are two J. BENAIS AND COMPANY Cognacs, 3* and VSOP, imported by The Simons Proprietary Limited, 18 - 24 James Street, Whangarei. Also known are a VIELLE RESERVE and an EXTRA. All would appear to have been imported at the same time as the only difference is the neck label.

I'm sure you will agree, six great bottles.

David Smith



Taking Pot Luck

A meeting out of the ordinary was planned for the June meeting of the club. It was felt that we needed an opportunity to meet some of our newer members and have some fun at the same time. Everyone was asked to bring something to eat and needless to say something to drink to keep the "spirits" up it was said by one of our oldest or is it longest serving members. The best laid plans of mice and men it is said often don't work (forgive the literary license) and even though personal invitations were sent to all local members the turnout was not as good as could have been expected, but those who did turn up had twice as much fun to make up for it. After the meeting was brought up to date on all of the clubs many activities it was time to dine on a huge range of culinary delights and the wine flowed with great abundance. Then the serious business of buying, selling and swapping took place with one member obviously wallowing in all the bargains while all seemed to be able to add a significant amount to either their collections or their wallets...

having just decided to specialise in wines the Matthews were delighted to find other members who were "sorting out" to make room for more. Ian and June Butcher will need to get another cabinet as their collection was added to with some spirited competition with our host Russell Thomson. It was agreed by all that this must have been the best buy swap and sell the club had ever held with some really rare and unusual bottles exchanging hands. and everyone went home feeling well fed, well entertained and satisfied with an afternoon that showed that pot luck can sometimes be good luck.

Chris Matthews



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HISTORY IN MINIATURE

COGNAC - THE FOUNDERS

In a previous article we saw that cognac is definitely a French product. The Grapes must be grown in a defined area, plus the oak used in the barrels must come from specified forests. However, as we shall see the people who founded The Cognac Houses were anything but French.

James Hennessy & Co.

At the age of 26 Richard Hennessy, younger son of Charles Hennessy, Lord of Bellymacmoy, County Cork, Ireland, left his regiment in Ireland. Like many other Catholics he settled in France and joined the Service of Louis XV. In 1759 he left the army and became a dealer in Eaux-de-Vie. He settled in the Cognac Region in 1765 and began exporting to England and Ireland. His son greatly expanded the business, which took its present name in 1785. By 1830 the company was exporting to all five continents. Maurice Hennessy is credited with inventing the 'Three Star' designation to indicate the quality of Cognac.

J. & F. Martell

Jean Martell left his native Jersey (Channel Islands) in 1715 to trade in Cognac. He died in 1750 and left a very prosperous company to his widow and two sons. In that year the company exported 40,000 casks. The sons were Jean and Frederic, whose names were incorporated in the Company Title in 1790 on the death of their mother. The company is still family owned and the eighth generation are now in charge. In Britain their agents since 1833, are another family company, Matthew Clark and Sons. No formal contract has existed between the companies, only a Gentleman's Agreement. Today they vie with Hennessy's as the largest cognac company.

Cognac Hine SA.

In 1792 Thomas Hine left Dorset, England at the age of 17. He arrived in Jarnac to learn French. The following year as he prepared to return Louis XVI was beheaded and the border closed. He stayed in France and joined the company of Ranson and Delamain. He worked hard and became sole proprietor in 1817.

That year the company became Thomas Hine and Company and it remained family owned until 1971 when it was bought by the Distillers Company. However, two Hine brothers still have key positions in the company.

Delamain & Co.

The Company was founded by James Delamain. He was a descendant of a cognac family which had emigrated to England then Ireland at the beginning of the 17th Century. James returned to Cognac in 1759. Through marriage he became the son-in-law to I. Ranson who had been a cognac trader since 1725. In 1763 he became a partner and the company became Ranson and Delamain. In 1824 Henri Delamain, the Grandson of James, founded Roullett and Delamain with two cousins. Two families continued joint ownership until 1920 when the Delamain family became sole owners and the company became Delamain and Company.

Whilst on the subject of Delamain and Company, there is a new miniature on sale.

Delamain Pale and Dry Cognac 3cl. In the usual cognac shaped bottle. Delamain and Company have an emphasis on quality rather than quantity. The cognacs in this bottle would be between 25 and 30 years old and come from the Grande Champagne District. One to drink if you ever decide to give up miniatures. (Tut, Tut, Frank, perish the thought!) Around \$3.50 from Wilson and Neill.

FRANK WYNN

NEW OUT

TEACHERS 60 RESERVE STOCK 5CL. \$3.00

This comes in the small round Teachers bottle, but has a black label. It takes its name from the fact that it contains at least 60% malt whisky including Glendronach and Speyside malts.

**STOCK MARACHINO, STOCK BORE SAMBUCA, STOCK AMARETTO
DELL'ORSO, all \$2.75 (from Wilson Neill).**

They come in medium size round bottles containing 3cl. and 27% vol.

MIDORI MELON LIQUEUR \$3.00 (from Wilson Neill).

Dr. McGILLICUDIES PEPPERMINT SCHNAPPS - Yes Brian the Schnapps revolution has arrived - available generally.

HERE GOES!

At the August Meeting in Wanganui, David really pricked my conscience when he said how little support he got for miNiZ. Not just a lack of articles, but also a lack of response and information generally. I always enjoy having a go at the competition, but never get around to sending my answers in. I have always thought that I have nothing to write about, but having been told, with a bit of effort we could all contribute, here goes. This is especially for you David - or is it for me so that I can attend the meetings with a clear conscience!

My mother was a small collector and got me interested over 20 years ago. I eventually ended up with three quarters of her collection, and I am still hoping to get the last quarter.

About 15 years ago I met my neighbour Dianne Opie and we found we had the same interest. Since then we have worked together in helping each other increase our collections, not an easy task in rural Taranaki. Two years ago she took me to a meeting in Wanganui and introduced me to the club, where I feel I have made many friends and enjoyed their hospitality in their homes.

My collection numbers approximately 2,000 bottles. I now only collect spirits and fancy bottles as our house is small. My husband say's his bed will be in the cow shed if I get any more. (So what? You have to get your priorities right! - Editor)

We went to Wellington for the Pot Luck Dinner in July and really enjoyed ourselves, but were very disappointed that so few Wellington members attended. We were especially surprised that none of the newer Wellington members attended as it was put on especially for them. A name on the membership list means nothing to me, I like to put a face to the name and was very disappointed not to meet some of the newer members.

Well back to minis. If any one has a Red Bols Tulip for sale I would be interested as I have two sets of my mothers with the red one missing.

PAM FOWLER

Nice try Pam. It's worth noting that Pam very much likes to show off her collection and has some very rare blown glass animals. Give her a ring if you are in the area. - Editor.

SNIPPETS

Ray Watson is currently negotiating to bring us some more New Zealand Ceramics. The only one confirmed so far is a New Zealand Robin. There are possibilities of an Owl, 2 or 3 different plaque type bottles and a Kiwi. Price is expected to be about NZ.\$20.00 each, which has to be good value. We will let you know more when we can.

Collectors Court. The New Zealand Fieldays Society is again holding a Collectors Court (display) at the Sports and Pastimes Fielday at Mystery Creek (Hamilton) on the 7th/8th November. A number of members have displayed parts of their collection there in previous years. - Why not join in this year? It's a great weekend away. You get to meet lots of other collectors of all kinds, plus about 20,000 members of the general public who pay to attend. The collectors hall is probably second only to the food hall in popularity! The club will be happy to supply more details to you. (Box 384, Wellington.)

I was disappointed when I got a letter from David Maund saying that he would no longer be in the Guinness Book of Records as

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having the largest mini bottle collection. The following day I got a letter from Dick Cotton to say that member George Terren now has 28,000 + and this will be shown as the largest in the next edition. I also hear that George has put in a bid for the 4,000 + bottles owned by the late Les Wilton.

The Club has decided to appoint a Supplies Officer to smooth out the distribution of club bottles. All requests for bottles from the club (except the Colonial Collection) should be addressed to Dianne Opie, RD.2, Patea, Taranaki.

THE MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

We highly recommend this, the only publication of it's type, to all our members.

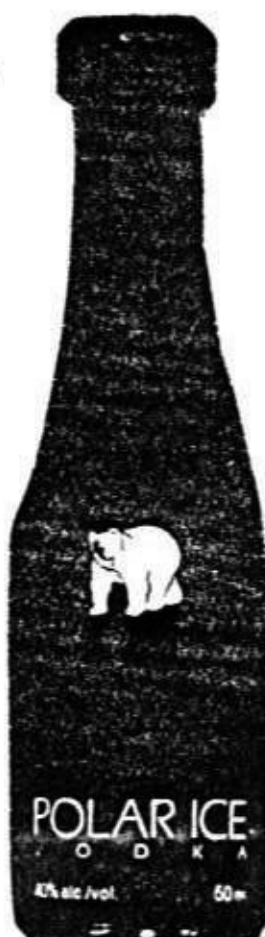
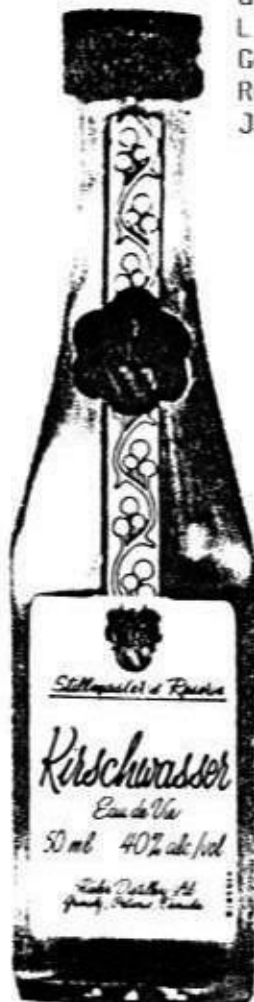
For those of you who wish to subscribe, the address of the Miniature Bottle Collector Magazine is:

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Annual Subscription (6 issues) is US.\$20.00. Arrangements have been made to pay for subscriptions in New Zealand at no extra cost. Please write to the Club at P.O. Box 384, Wellington, if you wish to subscribe this way.

ANSWERS TO INTERNATIONAL LIQUOR COMPANIES

Holland:	Bols De Kuyper Schade and Buysing Rynbende Wynand Fokink Noord	France:	M. Drillaud and Fils Gustave Pierre Cusenier Dolfi Benoit Serres Sempe
U.S.A.	James B. Beam Mr. Boston Hiram Walker Anderson County Heublein Calvert	Italy:	Drioli Todisco Luoni Stock Girolamo Luxardo Gamberotta
Germany:	Moritz Thienelt Niels Hansen R. Kunzmann Anton Riemerschmid Asbach Melcher	New Zealand:	Wilsons MacGregor Totara Basil A Fitzpatrick Bondpak Southern Grain
U.K.	I.D.V. Gilbeys L. Rose Gordons Rutherford James Burrough	Others:	Forcol Kord Guinnes United Distillers Nikka San Miguel Sangster Sin Rival



NEW MEMBERS

Only five new members this month - we're slipping!

Annie Ngan, c/o Dupont Asia Pacific Limited, TST P.O. Box 98851,
TST KLN, Hong Kong

Annie specialises in French produced grape brandies
and has some really unusual bottles to swap in
return (she supplied some of the Chinese bottles in
the last miNiZ).

Noel Osborne, - Change of Address. Now:
2/40 Comins Crescent, Mission Bay, Auckland 5, N.Z.

Florence Gurnick, RD1, Thames, New Zealand

Kerry Edser, Main Road North, Motunui, Taranaki.

(It took a team of 13 C.I.A. handwriting experts and
cryptologists from the US Embassy to finally track
Kerry down! - Please write clearly or print as
the Committee are all illiterate.)

Fiona McPhee, 16 Rile Crescent, Johnsonville,
Phone (04) 789 312

Bon Lofberg, 18 Endeavour Street, Sylvania, NSW 2224, Australia

In addition and quite by accident, the following companies showed up -
CATTO, ALPA and KEO. A few people also put down some brand names that
showed up. These have not been counted as I specifically asked for Companies.

Dick Cotton wrote to me to say that he enjoyed the competition, but that the
German names were particularly hard. What about poor Gunther Dick? He had
to contend with all these strange Anglo-Saxon names and still managed to
come third.

A special consolation prize of three bottles is awarded to Gunther.

The winner was Dianne Opie with 48 out of a possible 53. This is an outstanding
effort - Dianne receives the three bottles shown as her prize.

Second was Erica Mulder with 45. This total is more than we expected the
winner to achieve, so three bottles to Erica as well.

BUY SELL & SWAP

Club stock bottles: Port Nicholson Gin, Port Nicholson Vodka,
Graceys Gin, Rebroff Vodka, Jim Beam 7th
Convention, Coachman Gin, Guardians of
Taste Lucky 13 Sherry

All @ NZ.\$3.00 each plus postage.

Dansey's Pass Hotel bottles NZ.\$4.00 each,
plus postage. See cover article.

Captain Cook Jug. See elsewhere in this
issue. If there is enough demand the club
will import these for the New Zealand
members. Please let Diane know within two
weeks of receiving this newsletter if you
want one or if you want any of the other
jugs.

Except for the jugs please send cash with
order and either some money towards postage
or the club will bill you for postage when
the bottles are sent.

Order all the above through Dianne Opie, RD2, Patea, Taranaki.

HENRY FRIEND, 5618 Geary Boulevard #203, San Francisco, CA.94121,
USA. Wants to buy or swap for New Zealand minis
- why not drop Henry a line and further his and
your own collections at the same time.

From a few letters we have had back we believe that some of our
overseas members believe that the bottles on the New Zealand
miniatures list are generally available. A few are, but most are
not, and some are extremely rare. The list is one of all that we
know of that have EVER been made here. (Having specialised in
New Zealand bottles for a number of years now, I am still 80 +
short of the total shown on the list - David Smith.)

POSTAL AUCTION MAGAZINE

The Advertisement on the opposite page is provided free of charge as a service
to our members.

I was sent a complimentary copy of this magazine and can certainly recommend it.
I currently subscribe to the rival magazine, "Auction Gazette", but for some
time now I have been thinking of not renewing my subscription.

Mini Bottle International contains more bottles for sale than Auction Gazette
and their bidding rules and fee structures are more equitable. It also contains
articles of interest to all mini bottle collectors.

Why not subscribe - its a great way to increase your collection.

MINI BOTTLE INTERNATIONAL



AUCTION MAGAZINE

MINI-BOTTLE INTERNATIONAL AUCTION MAGAZINE is sponsored by the NEW ENGLAND MINIATURE LIQUOR BOTTLE CLUB, MINI-BOTTLE INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM and a merger with the original COGNAC NEWSLETTER, with the hopes of bringing into the open, a much larger and extensive collection of those special rare and hard to find bottles from throughout the world as well as many difficult and inexpensive Miniatures from other areas, and many other bottles not shown and available in previous publications.

MINI-BOTTLE INTERNATIONAL AUCTION MAGAZINE will continue to carry the same great format as the COGNAC NEWSLETTER had, but we felt that the time had come for a merger and a name change to make this a larger and more International newsletter. MINI-BOTTLE INTERNATIONAL has been in the process over the past year of forming the MINI-BOTTLE INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM with a total collection of over 27,000 bottles on display, and is presently located in Southboro, Ma. and is open to all collectors throughout the world, for private showings by appointment only. MINI-BOTTLE INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM appointments can be set up through George Terren, the Editor of MINI-BOTTLE INTERNATIONAL AUCTION MAGAZINE and Curator of MINI-BOTTLE INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM. MINI-BOTTLE INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM has been formed with large collections, which have been donated by George Terren, Joe Levesque, and many other members.

MINI-BOTTLE INTERNATIONAL AUCTION MAGAZINE, will be comprised of many variations of bottles submitted from other subscribers and members of MINI-BOTTLE INTERNATIONAL AUCTION MAGAZINE, THE COGNAC NEWSLETTER, and the NEW ENGLAND MINIATURE LIQUOR BOTTLE CLUB members. Also by bottles being generated from collections purchased for the MINI-BOTTLE INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM.

Our co-operating Editor, Joe Levesque, will be continuing to write many new and interesting articles for our International Magazine. Joe also hopes with our merger to be able to do much more traveling to obtain many unique and rare Cognacs and other miniatures for which many of our collectors' and friends' would otherwise be unable to obtain.

MINI-BOTTLE INTERNATIONAL AUCTION MAGAZINE is being produced by the NEW ENGLAND MINIATURE LIQUOR BOTTLE CLUB, the MINI-BOTTLE INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM, and the merger of the COGNAC NEWSLETTER. Your AUCTION MAGAZINE Editor is George Terren, of Southboro, Ma., co-operating Editor, Joe Levesque, Oklahoma City, Assistant Editor, Diane Beland, Marlboro, Ma.

All correspondence in reference to the MINI-BOTTLE INTERNATIONAL AUCTION MAGAZINE should be directed to George Terren, 25 High Street, Southboro, Ma. 01772, (617) 460-0964.

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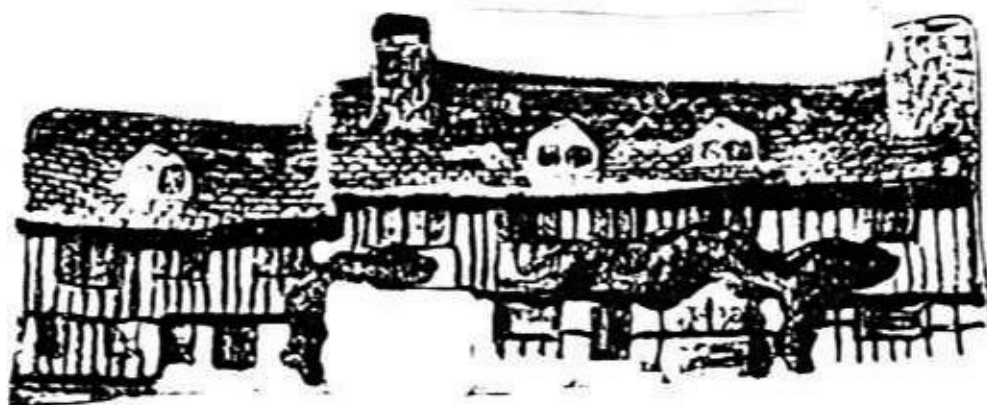
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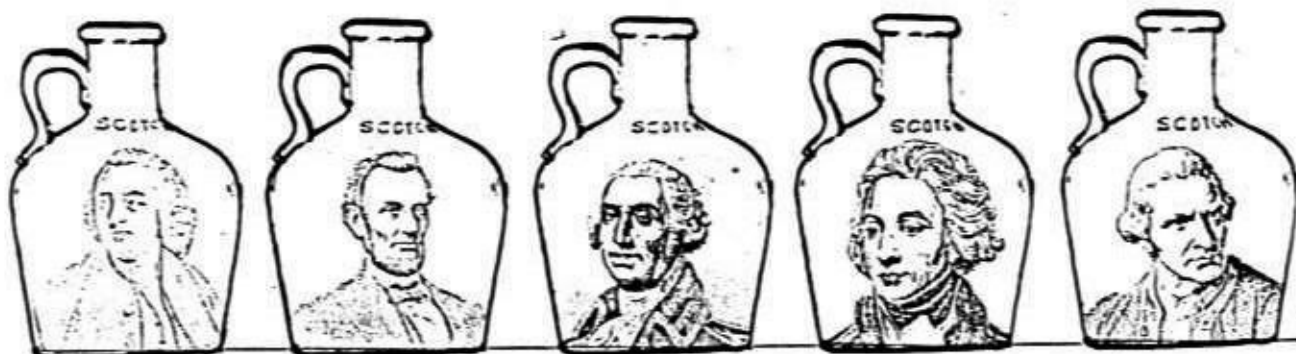
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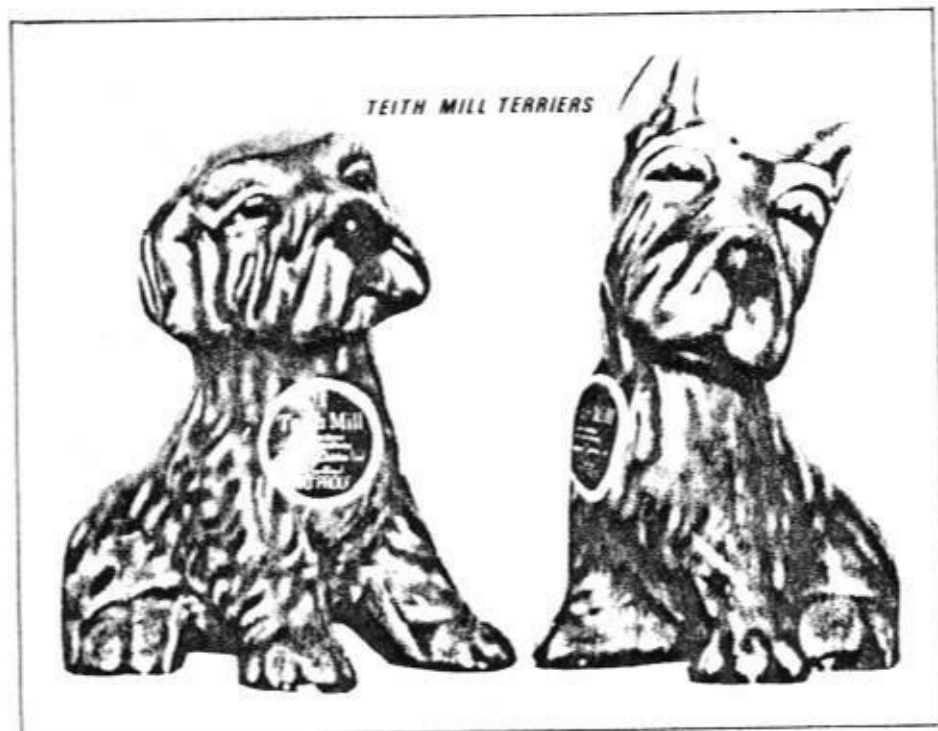
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How much is that doggie...

by DAVID M. SPAID



At the risk of sounding like the corniest writer in captivity, I couldn't resist the use of that title.

After looking at a great many bottles, I realized that one of the areas not really covered was that of dog bottles. Al Halpern did some very interesting articles on topical collecting, so in this particular instance, I'm going to continue on in that vein and picture a good many dog bottles for you in the next few issues.

You can expect to see the Garniers, Collector's Art, Droz, M.A.B., Bal Tabarin, and many others in this short series of articles.

This time we're going to look at seven different bottles, six of which are from different companies. Some of these bottles I'm certain you're already familiar with, but others might be quite a surprise.

To begin, let's turn to the pair of bottles from the same company...Teith Mill. This pair was never sold here in the U.S. but was found in Europe about four years ago. The terrier on the left comes in brown while the Scottie is in grey. Of all the different dogs in our collection, these two are favorites.

Next we come to the Cazanove from France. This fellow looks like he just as easily could bring in the evening paper as well as that bone in his mouth. Interestingly enough, this bottle was not imported; however, it still seems to turn up now and then in flea markets and garage sales. He comes in brown and is filled through the hole in the end of the bone.

Since we're still in Europe, let's take a look at the Rynbende black poodle from Holland. This one is about as easy to add to

your collection as getting the occasional set of hen's teeth. Sometimes seen with a white companion piece this is a most interesting bottle. You see, it like all the rest of the bottles here, are bottles in the true sense of the word. And, this one is probably more interesting because it's completely free standing. Notice how all the rest of the bottles are seated dogs and how so many things being made today are simply a ceramic piece attached to a base which holds liquor.

We'll look now to the last non-import bottle of the lot. This is the Barsottini dog who sits perched on the dog house. This bottle came out originally in the late 1950's but was re-discovered with the Italian and American mini bottle boom a few years back. The picture of the dog is a 3D representation and he'll move back and forth as you move the bottle.

Next to last is our semi-import from Italy. I call this one a semi import because only a very few were brought into the U.S. There is also an IDA dog which most collectors would say was identical...but it's not! This Luxardo can be spotted (no pun intended) because it has black spots, while the IDA has dark blue spots. This one was produced in 1959.

With regard to this bottle, I want to relate a story which may show some of you to what lengths I (and many friends) will go to locate a particular bottle we can't live without.

Ten years ago the first Jim Beam collector's club began in the Bay area of northern California. Since I've always had a few large bottles in the collection, I naturally had to join this new bottle club.



BARSOTTINI

LUXARDO



ALTA

Well, in the late 1960's, the Luxardo representative, Mr. Hans Schoenwald, gave the Beam Club some miniature Luxardo chess pieces and dogs to be used in the door prize offerings. So I quite diligently waited until each bottle had been given away in the drawing and then by using a club roster wrote to each person who received a bottle. In this way, I was finally able to trade for two of the Luxardo chess pieces as they were won by individuals who were not interested in miniatures (hard to

imagine, isn't it?). But months passed and I never had an answer to any of the letters to winners of the dog bottles.

Finally about eight months after I had initially sent out my letters asking about a possible trade, I received a package in the mail. Opening it, I discovered the Luxardo dog and a note which stated, "I'm sure you'll enjoy this much more than I." I have really no idea about the person who sent the bottle; however, I can say that he or she was probably correct...I surely

have enjoyed that bottle down through the years.

Let's move now to the last bottle for this time. This is the true American bottle. This dog is from the Alta Winery and Distillery of Dinuba, California, and was released in 1935. He is all white except for the highlights which are all black but for the mouth which is red. There are scores of Alta bottles, but this one is a stranger to almost all U.S. collections.

--DMS--

COLONIAL COLLECTION

AT LAST - we have the bottles and all of the sets have been filled and sealed. Priority was given to those furthest away so that all the overseas members who have fully paid (including postage) now have their's on the way. Those out of town members who attended the last meeting at Wanganui also struck lucky. We are attempting to deliver the fully paid for sets within New Zealand, but any member who cannot wait can send \$5.00 for postage and they will be despatched immediately.

Please, please, if you have not paid the balance owing yet, please do so.

On a less pleasant note we have 6 sets more still to sell than we expected. An enquiry was received from the Edmonton, Canada Club for about 12 sets. As no order had been placed prior to our order having to be in to the pottery I telephoned their president Bill Davidson. We struck a discount deal based on them putting in a verbal order for 6 sets with the probability of an order for some further sets to follow. Bill Davidson and the Edmonton Club have now refused to go ahead with the purchase. Frankly, the Committee is furious - obviously their word means less to them than it would to us here. - Enough said.

We still have about 15 sets to sell, so if you do know of anyone who wants a set they are NZ.\$350.00 for the full 11, or NZ.\$32.00 each. A special deal is available to any member who already has a set and wishes to purchase another. Please write to the club for details.

Orders to P. O. Box 384, Wellington, Please.



Shown on the left are two Kiwifruit Liqueurs by Totara Vineyards.

The first has a transparent label and was bottled for the new Zealand market. The second was made especially for the Japanese market and has a conventional paper label.

The New Zealand one is available from the vineyard and so might the Japanese one be with a bit of arm twisting or begging.

Incidentally, also now available from the vineyard is the version of Totara Cafe originally bottled for the US market. (See miNiZ August/September 1984.)

THE TRUTH "And Nothing But The Truth" ABOUT PROOF

by John Sullivan

The use of the word "proof" can be most confusing. The real intent of "proof" is to indicate the concentration of alcohol in the whisky.

The term "proof" as used in early times, was determined by very crude methods, such as dampening gunpowder with whisky, and when the gunpowder would ignite, the alcoholic strength was considered proven. This method was replaced in the year 1820 by the Sikes Hydrometer.

The most significant thing to take place concerning the definition of proof was the Customs and Excise Act of 1952. This Act not only clearly defined proof but it also, for the first time ever, legally defined Scotch Whisky by statute: "Spirits described as Scotch Whisky shall not be deemed to correspond to that description unless they have been obtained by distillation in Scotland from a mash of cereal grains saccharified by the diastase of malt and have been matured in a warehouse, in a cask, for a period of at least three years." Unfortunately, so much whisky is being produced by the distilleries that they are short of storage space and are therefore selling their whisky at the legal minimum of three years, when it may be bottled with the distillery name. Most experts agree that whisky should be 10 years or older to be fully appreciated. I would like to point out here,

that any reference of age on a label of a blended whisky, refers to the youngest of the blend, and that quite commonly there are older whiskies blended in as well.

The definition of proof is: "Spirits shall be deemed to be at proof if the volume of the spirits with distilled water, has a weight equal to that of twelve-thirteenths of a volume of distilled water equal to the volume of the spirits, the volume of each liquid being computed at 51 degrees F." To state this in simpler terms, it means that proof spirit is that which at 51 degrees F. weighs 12/13 of an equal volume of distilled water at the same temperature.

In practice, however, a temperature of 60 degrees F. is found to be more convenient, and at this temperature, proof contains 49.28% alcohol by weight and 57.1% by volume. This, however, is the British method used to determine proof. The standard of proof recognized by the United States is 50% of alcohol by volume at 60 degrees F., or 7.1% less than the British method. There is a third method used in some parts of the world called the "Gay-Lussac" method. I won't discuss that method here, other than to mention that it is usually seen on Italian labels as 43 G.L., which would correspond to our U.S. 86 proof.

Getting back to comparing the U.S. method to the British

method, we can see that a bottle of 100 proof U.K. (British) would be 114.2% in the U.S. (Any of you collectors who have a miniature of "Fulstrength" look at the label.) Similarly, American 100 proof is the same as British 87.7 proof. The difference is worth noting because Scotch Whisky shipped to America is bottled at 76.2 proof according to British standards, and that corresponds to our U.S. 86.8 proof. Though this is stronger than the 70 proof which comprises most of the domestic British market, it is not as much stronger as most of you might think. The 70 proof of the British market corresponds to our U.S. 80 proof, and in case you haven't noticed recently, more and more whisky, both Scotch and Bourbon, is appearing on store shelves at 80 proof as our American palates are demanding a lighter whisky. So the next time you are offered a sip of 70 proof British Scotch Whisky, don't look down your nose at it; it's the same as the 80 proof bottle you have in your own cupboard.

Now, let's take a look at the word maturity and see how it is applied to whisky. First of all, as most of you probably already know, whisky does not mature in the bottle, only in a cask, as the porosity of the cask is a significant factor in maturation. The rate of maturation depends in some measure on the size of



D. T. P. NEXT MEETINGS

Sept. 20th Marge Hollis, 28 Bowers Street, Stokes Valley
Phone (04) 683 163

Oct. 18th Chris & Janne Matthews,
4a Kinloch Place, Papakowhai, Phone (04) 378 221

Nov. 28th CHRISTMAS FUNCTION.

We were planning to take over a Japanese Restaurant but unfortunately this has fallen through. We will find something equally good and let you know what it is in due course. Several Wellington members have offered to provide accommodation to any out-of-town members who wish to attend.

Janne Matthews, address above, is co-ordinating accommodation and Jackie Smith, 86 Rawhiti Road, Pukerua Bay, Phone (04) 399 536 - the restaurant bookings.

Please give them plenty of notice of your intentions.

Dec. No Meeting

Jan. B-B-Q Meeting at a venue to be advised.

In February or possibly early March we have again been invited to Ron and Dianne Opie's farm in Taranaki, for the, now annual, weekend away meeting and Buy Sell and Swap. More details in the next issue.

the cask - the smaller the cask, the faster the maturing. However the smaller the cask, the larger amount of whisky is lost through absorption by the porosity of the wood. To my knowledge, only oak wood is used in constructing these casks and oak wood with the proper degree of porosity, enabling the whisky to "breathe" without leaking, is essential for the maturing process. Not only is there a loss of volume during maturation, there is also a loss of strength. The degree of humidity in the warehouse where the casks lie during maturation

also affects the loss of volume and strength of the maturing whisky. The greater the humidity, the more it loses strength, and the drier it is, the more it loses volume. Whisky is further reduced in strength by the addition of water before bottling. The strength at which the whisky is bottled depends on its destination. Whisky destined for America is now being bottled mostly at 86 proof if it's bottled in Scotland, but at 80 proof if it is bottled in the U.S., as more and more are. Those whiskies which are bottled in the

U.S. usually say "Imported" on the label. Some examples of "imported" brands are: House of Stuart, Highland Mist, Grand Macnish, and Inverhouse. There are many more.

I would really like to hear from those of you who are interested in the Scotch miniatures. Write and tell me about your collection, your interesting bottles, what you would like to read in articles about Scotch miniatures, and any questions you might have. I promise you that I will respond to each and every letter. --J.S.--

HISTORY OF THE COCKTAIL

Although the evidence proves that the idea of making mixed drinks existed centuries before America was discovered, it is pretty well certain that the cocktail first became popular in America.

"But it is an established fact that Claudius, a physician in early Roman times, invented a mixture consisting of vini gallici, lemon juice with a few pinches of dried adders. This was prepared for His Imperial Master Commodus, who considered it to be the finest of aperitifs, and judging by his habit of living unwisely and too well, Commodus should have known what he was talking about."

Dictionaries at the end of the eighteenth century give the meaning of the word "Cocktail" as appertaining to horses of mixed breeding, and in Yorkshire dialect, as being beer that was fresh and foaming. From the earliest times the cock, the sacrificial bird, has been associated with strong and delectable drinks which gives rise to the following story:—

"In a picturesque bay at the Peninsula of Yucatan lies the historical port of Campeche. Many years ago English sailing vessels arrived at this tropical port to take in cargoes of mahogany and many other products.

"The English officers and sailors went ashore to visit the port and contemplate the ruins of the fortifications that in former times had defended the town against the pirates, some of whom reached the high rank of Admiral in the Armada of Her Majesty the Virgin Queen. They quenched their thirst at the doors of taverns in the narrow streets of the city or under the deep arches at the main square. In those times wine, liqueurs, and strong alcoholic drinks were drunk without mixing. But in this particular part of the world drinks were sometimes ordered which were called 'dracs', of brandy, rum or some other alcoholic ingredients. These were mixed drinks, prepared in a thick coarse glass, slowly stirred with a spoon. Metal spoons were not always used as they often lent an unpleasant flavour to the drink, and wooden spoons, or even sticks, were more often employed. The word 'drac' was probably a corruption of 'Drake' the British hero adventurer of the seas.

"In one of these taverns in the picturesque Mexican port, shaded by graceful palms and perfumed by the sea breeze and the scent of sandalwood from the forests, the boy who served the drinks, instead of a spoon used the fine, slender and smooth root of a plant which owing to its peculiar shape was called 'Cola de Gallo' which in English means 'Cock's tail'. The English sailors, who became accustomed to drinking 'Dracs', upon seeing the boy mix their drinks with this root which to them must have seemed very strange, asked what it was, and the reply was 'Cola de Gallo', or in English, 'Cock's tail', and soon the word with which they had baptised the drinks of that port, mixed with the famous root, became common among the sailors landing in Campeche, and nobody ordered 'Dracs', but only 'Cock Tails'."

WHAT TO DRINK AND WHEN

As an **Aperitif**: Dry or Medium Cocktail—Sherry—Vermouth—Aquavit.

Caviare or Hors d'oeuvres: Vodka Samovar.

Oysters: Dry White Wine, Chablis or Graves, Dry Champagne, Moselle or Stout.

Soup: Medium Sherry or Madeira.

Fish: Dry Champagne, Graves, Chablis, Hock or Moselle.

Entree, Roast or Bird: Claret, Light Burgundy, Chianti (all room temperature) or Vintage Champagne iced.

Game: Heavy Red Burgundy or Claret (room temperature).

Sweets: Sauternes or Vintage Champagne (iced).

Cheese: Burgundy, Port, Rich Brown Sherry, Muscatel.

Coffee: Vintage Brandy or Liqueurs.

(Champagne or Sparkling Wines can be served with any course)

BETWEEN THE SHEETS

1 Measure Brandy

1 Measure Cointreau

1 Measure Dark Rum

Add a dash of lemon juice, shake with ice, strain and pour into a cocktail glass.

The Matthews, together with your esteemed editors decided to try this one night. Having got over the shock of the cost of a bottle of Cointreau, a good time was had by all.

**** Highly Recommended

