

vol. 8 no. 4
May/June 1993



MiNiZ

THE NEWSLETTER OF PORT NICHOLSON MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



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New Zealand's only Miniature Bottle Club

EDITORIAL.

Greetings to all members.

In between my wife having our first baby (now eleven weeks old) and working the last 28 days on the trot, I've managed to find some time to put together this magazine.

The A.G.M. as usual was held at Patea on the 19th - 21st February. It was reasonably well attended and Diane & Ron's hospitality was as warm as ever. (and for the third year running, for one reason or another, I just couldn't make it.)

Lately, there has been a smattering of new New Zealand miniatures on the scene. Some of these have been recently produced and some have been around for some time but have only come to light. David Smith has written a great introductory article on them in this issue, and more detailed articles on some of these minis by the members who initially discovered will appear in future issues of MiNiZ.

Those members who ordered Scotch malt minis from Meenan Wines & Spirits of Dunedin were most satisfied with the price and quality of their bottles. We hope to be making further orders in the near future. Also, the bulk of our orders from Chiisai Bin and Fourcol have arrived and they will be soon ready for distribution.

Our club membership continues to rise and I would like to welcome Errol Brassett of Tawa, NZ to our club.

Several members have written articles for the magazine of late and I would like to thank them for their efforts. However the bulk of our membership remains apathetic so there is still a constant struggle to find articles to go in the magazine. Again, a reminder to our NZ members that if they see any new minis floating around, could they please let me or our committee know.

Finally, I would like to thank David Smith for designing our new magazine cover. Personally I think it is very modern, shows a lot of pizazz while maintaining a very patriotic theme.

Happy mini collecting.

Ken Chin

D. T. P. NEXT MEETINGS

20th June 1993: Sunday	SHIRLEY STOCKER: 20 Holland St, Wainuiomata. 2pm
18th July 1993: Sunday	CHRIS & JANNE MATTHEWS: 129 Makarini St, Paraparaumu. 2pm
21st August 1993: Saturday	IAN & JUNE BUTCHER: 60 Discovery Drive, Whitby. Pot Luck Dinner, Swap Meet. 6pm
19th September 1993: Sunday	KEN & MALEE CHIN: 9 Kapuranga Grove, Stokes Valley. 2pm

A.G.M.

The A.G.M. was held at Patea on Sunday 21st February 1993.

The following members were elected to the committee:

President	<i>David Smith</i>
Vice President [Wellington]	<i>Colin Kilpatrick</i>
Vice President [Auckland]	<i>to be decided</i>
Vice President [Christchurch]	<i>Robin Mellish</i>
Secretary	<i>Jackie Smith</i>
Treasurer	<i>Ian Butcher</i>
Supplies Officer	<i>Dianne Opie</i>
Editor	<i>Ken Chin</i>
Publicity Officer	<i>to be decided</i>

General Bussiness: Due to the financial state of the club, it has been decided that subscriptions for existing members be waived from March 1993 to February 1994.. Subscriptions will recommence from March 1994.

Next A.G.M. to be held on 19-20th February 1994

New New Zealanders

No, this is not an article about editor Ken and wife Malee's new baby. But let me congratulate them on behalf of the club. It is about bottles newly produced here and some older ones that have just turned up.

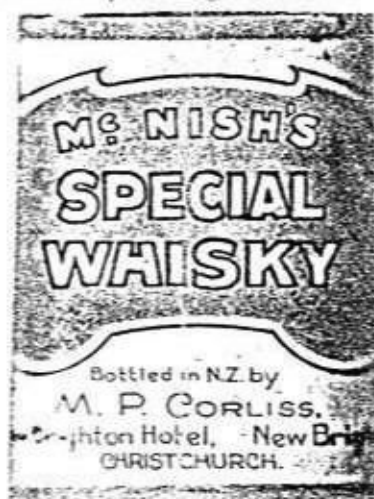


To the left is a really special bottle. Shown are both the back and front views. It is the only NZ made ceramic miniature apart from the Colonial Collection. It was found in Christchurch by Robin Mellish. Robin is finding out more about it and the pottery and will write something for the next MiNiZ.

Someone else who is going to write an article for the next edition is the Fretwells. They have in their collection a plastic Old Hokonui that was apparently given away by Wilsons a few years ago.

Erica Mulder has recently turned up a number of bottles, including three old gems. To the right you will see copies of the labels of two of these.

The first is McNish's Special Whisky. This is a very old bottle indeed. It was bottled for the New Brighton Hotel, New Brighton, Christchurch. I think that this hotel is still there. Can any of our Christchurch members tell us any more about this bottle?



The second is a label that will be familiar to many of you but the size is unusual. As you can see from your New Zealand Miniatures List the Benais Cognacs are normally 4.5cl or half the 9cl of this one. Erica was unsure whether to treat this as a true mini. I personally am happy to collect minis up to 100ml. I am sure editor Ken would welcome correspondence on this matter.



The third is not shown but is a NZ variation of a bottle that I am sure most of you are familiar with. The bottle is a squat brown square one and contains Riemerschmid Benediktbeurer Kloster Gold B.K.G., 43%.

Also not shown is a 6 year old bottle, Te-Koutu Plum Plonk 1987. This is in a clear round bottle.

Three new Jim Beams have turned up. Erica has found Bill Hanson and Kevin Barry and Robin Mellish has found "The Boss" Latimer Lodge, which is a plastic.

Recently discovered, also by Robin Mellish, is a Villa Maria bottle. This is a round brown bottle with a red label that simply says Villa Maria. We assume it contains red wine.

The remaining bottles are all new ones that you should be able to find in the bottle stores.



The top row are all liqueurs. The first is a plastic Tia Maria. The second has the worst label I have ever seen, and what's more it is one of a pair. It is put out by Totara Vineyards and is a Creme de Cacao. There is also a Creme de Menthe. If they were going to put out labels using a computer the least they could have done is use a decent graphics package.



The next two bottles are produced in Nelson and can be purchased at a cost of \$7.95 each from Mine Host (see advert elsewhere). They are expensive as they contain flecks of real gold. The ordinary Royal Velvet differs from the one currently on the NZ Minis List only by the fact that the bottles are now clear and there is no neck label.

The bottom photo shows some new spirits. The Douro Fathers Brandy is bottled by Allied Liquor Merchants, whereas the older version (not shown) was bottled

by Quill Humphreys.

The Grants Scotch is a glass bottle with an almost identical label to that on the Grants plastic bottle. The only difference is the overall label size. A step in the right direction I would say, going from plastic to glass. I am happy to say that the story on the Seagers Gin is identical to that on the Grants.

The last bottle is a plastic Beafeater Gin, 50ml, 37.5%. It's about 30 years since Beafeater was bottled here in miniature. The previous two versions are both flasks.

For the first time in years we appear to be seeing an increase in both the numbers of bottles produced and the number of bottle stores stocking them. A trend to be very much encouraged.

I have completely updated the New Zealand Miniatures List. It now lists 569 bottles either produced in NZ or especially for the NZ market. If you want a copy drop me a line.

Happy Bottle Hunting

David Smith



This letter is from our regular contributor in Europe Ivan Uhlik.

He is co-operating with the KSK club in Czechoslovakia in an attempt to form a register of all large miniature bottle collections world-wide.

It seems a very difficult task but I would encourage all our members to have a look at the following questionnaire and to attempt to fill it out and return it to the KSK Club.

MiNiZ wishes the KSK Club the best of luck in its project..... [Editor]

return address for questionnaire is:

Klub Sberatelů Kuriozit
c/o Jiri Pešák
Na Hutmance 20
158 00 Praha 5,
Czech Republic.

Nº 93/0149

Radebeul 2
1993-03-27

Hello, dear Ken!

I thank you very much for the newest issue of your newsletter I've received some days ago. But I'm turning to you with a special request today since I've promised Mr. Pešák from the KSK club to help him with the distribution of their club's own questionnaires.

So I'm attaching an English copy of the KSK questionnaire as I think you could add it into some numbers of your MiNiZ. Therewith a large number of mini bottle collectors in New Zealand had got the possibility to take part in the questionnaire action of the KSK.

I met Mr. Pešák in Prague last week-end when I visited the traditional "Spring Bottle Show" there. He said me that the KSK managing would like to register all the larger mini bottle collections worldwide, and, he asked me for aid because my wide international contacts.

Well, it was a great one that bottle show in Prague as I cannot remember when I saw so much new Czech bottles at a show last time. There were lots of new minis available there. Later I will send you an article about them when I'll get the pictures of the novelties.

Finally, I thank you in advance on behalf of the KSK managing, and, wishing you all the best in collecting minis as well as in making the MiNiZ I remain with a lot of collector's regards,

Sincerely,

Yvan

- Enclosed. -

QUESTIONNAIRE

Name _____ Surname _____ Country _____

Address _____

Dear collector friend, we are sending you this Questionnaire in the hope you'll help us to chart worldwide collections of miniature bottles. We thank you in advance for return the completed Questionnaire until September 30, 1993 to:

Klub Sběratelů Kuriozit, c/o Jiří Pešák, Na Hutě 20, 158 00 Praha 5, Czech Republic

Country	Bottles			Country	Bottles			Country	Bottles		
	Li	Sp	Wy		Li	Sp	Wy		Li	Sp	Wy
Albania				Guatemala				Panama			
Afghanistan				Guernsey				Paraguay			
Algeria				Guyana				Peru			
Antigua				Haiti				Philippines			
Argentina				Holl. Antillas				Poland			
Armenia				Honduras				Portugal			
Australia				Hongkong				Puerto Rico			
Austria				Hungary				Reunion			
Azerbaijan				Iceland				Rhodesia			
Bahamas				India				Romania			
Bangladesh				Indonesia				Russia			
Barbados				Iran				Rwanda			
Belgium				Iraq				Samoa			
Belorussia				Ireland, Rep.				San Marino			
Bermuda				Ireland, N.				Scotland			
Bolivia				Israel				Singapore			
Brazil				Italy				Slovakia			
Bulgaria				Ivory Coast				Slovenia			
Burma				Jamaica				South-Africa			
Canada				Japan				Soviet Union			
Canary I.				Kazakhstan				Spain			
Chile				Kenya				Suriname			
China				Korea, N.				Sweden			
Columbia				Korea, S.				Switzerland			
Congo				Laos				Syria			
Corsica				Latvia				Tanzania			
Costa Rica				Libanon				Tasmania			
Croatia				Lithuania				Thailand			
Cuba				Luxembourg				Togo			
Curaçao				Macedonia				Trinidad & Tobago			
Cyprus				Madagascar				Tunesia			
Czecho- >1948				Madeira				Uganda			
slovakia <1948				Malaysia				Ukraine			
Denmark				Malta				Un. Arab Rep.			
Dominican Rep.				Martinique				Uruguay			
Egypt				Mauritania				U. S. A.			
England				Mauritius				Uzbekistan			
Estonia				Mexico				Venezuela			
Ethiopia				Moldavia				Vietnam			
Fidji				Mongolia				Virgin I., U.K.			
Finland				Namibia				Virgin I., U.S.			
France				Netherlands				Wales			
Germany, E.				New Zealand				Yugoslavia			
Germany, W.				Nicaragua				Zaire			
Georgian Rep.				Norway				Zambia			
Ghana				Pakistan				Zimbabwe			
Greece				Palestina				Total:			

HILL'S MINIATURES - THE LARGEST CZECH SERIES

By Ivan Uhlík

This year a large series of miniature bottles came out by Hill's in the Czech Republic. The firm Hill's Liqueurs at Jindr. Hradec, East-Bohemia, was founded in 1992. It controls some restitution distilleries in the South of East-Bohemian region. The main plant at Jindřichuv Hradec bottles a part of Hill's brands into miniatures. They are Czech standard shaped clear glass bottles with a capacity of 50 ml. The minis are stopped with metallic screw caps in golden colour. Their labels are unified designed with a golden firm's logo at the top and four coats-of-arms (for the towns where the firm possesses its plants) in a semicircle under it. Below at the bottom there is the brand's title in metallic letters, golden, red, blue, green, silver, bronze, purple and rainbow. At the neck of each bottle there is an oval label with the logo in several colours like golden, red and green. Some few bottles have got a back label with the ml and regd. number dates but other bottles have got them printed on the main label.

Up to date there are 24 miniatures at the Hill's. Three are rums and vodkas, two are whisky liqueurs, one is a brandy and a gin - while all other are liqueurs and cordials. Still in this year about twenty further minis will follow. Among them a whisky, some further vodka brands and a lot of spirits. Today you can see the following Hill's miniatures:



Rum Alpský 80%, Rum Sandokan 50%, Rum 40%, Hillognac Brandy 40%,
Finest Gin 40%, Vodka Hill's 40%, Broskvová Vodka 25%, Vodka Or-
ange 25%, Apricot Whisky 30%, Bross Whisky 30%, Ananasový Pinea-





apple Liqueur 30%, Bananový Banana Liqueur 35%, Crème de Cacao 30%, Curaçao Blue 40%, Fernet Hill's 40%, Griotte 30%, Jeřábinka 32%, Kavový Coffee Liqueur 36%, Kokosový Coconut Liqueur 30%, Miss Kiwi 34%, Ořechový Nut Liqueur 35%, Radigast Herb Liqueur 40%, Sambu Cocktail 24% and Zelená Peppermint Liqueur 30%.

Well, they were the first miniatures from the largest Czech series. When I get the other Hill's bottles I will show you them in one of the next newsletter issues. The collectors in New Zealand who would be interested in some of the Hill's miniatures can ask for more informations Mr. Jaroslav Kuba, sales agent, at Olomouc 775 00, Lužická Street 14/83, Czech Republic.



These are some of the new Scotch minis available from Meenan Wine & Spirits of Dunedin.

Quite a few members have purchased them already and have been pleased.

Price per mini: \$5.95.

NEW MEMBERS

ERROL BRASSET
33 Findlay St, Linden
Wellington, NZ. Collects Scotches.

SNIPPETS



Liz Riddoch
PH 5 4 8 0 0 8 8
STD(03)

214 Hardy Street,
Nelson.



"MINE HOST" is a retail outlet in Nelson which apart from stocking a large number of miniature bottles, it has two locally produced minis. These are featured in David Smith's article in this issue.

They have also bought a large number of of club minis to sell in their shop.

Any members going to Nelson should pop in a have a good look around. [Editor]

No mean Scotch

IF YOU DECIDE to have a tot of every whisky stocked by Christchurch pub Lochinvar's, allow yourself a week or so.

"At last count we had 89 different brands," says Barry Milner. And he's aiming for 100.

Milner is marketing and promotional manager for a chain of independent pubs, Bailies Group, which owns Lochinvar's.

While the pub specialises in single malts, it stocks as many rare and unusual brands as it can find. Rarest bottle of the moment: Johnny Walker Blue Label (it used to be called Oldest), only available duty-free for NZ\$205.

Milner says "we get a lot of tourists" drawn to the longest bar in the Southern Hemisphere (30 metres) for its Friday hoggis nights.

"We always toast the piper with our whisky of the week," he says. "The girls are all in kilts."

The bar's range includes brands divided into geographical sections: Highland, Lowland and Islays. Then there is Irish whiskey and brands from Canada, New Zealand, Japan and America.

Apparently the Welsh have produced one, too, and if Milner can track it down he'll sell it.

Lochinvar's is putting a catalogue together for its growing mail-order business. "We send whisky all over the world."

American servicemen stationed in the Antarctic who take R'n'R leave in Christchurch are some of the bar's more loyal customers. And Japanese tourists ... and local connoisseurs.



Lochinvar's is situated in Colombo St, Chrischurch. They also have a separate liquor attached to the bar.

I have contacted them for a list of their whiskies and minis which I will publish in the next issue. [Editor]

(Reproduced from Signature Magazine Aug/Sept 1992)



Mr Earl Robinson, of Gore, and his Hokonui whisky. He plans a tourist venture based on the moonshine legend.

Capitalising on Hokonui's whisky past

By Kim Dungey
Gore. — Mr Earl Robinson, of Gore, plans to set up a distillery producing Hokonui whisky, and eventually sell the brew to tourists.

Mr Robinson said Gore was known "all over the world" for the illicit whisky once brewed in the Hokonui Hills, and the area should capitalise on it.

It was vital the Hokonui legend, and the paraphernalia associated with it, were preserved.

Mr Robinson featured in the *Otago Daily Times* in June last year when he set up a display of old whisky stills during the Gold Guitar country music awards.

He hopes to have the distillery established at Hokonui Pioneer Park within about nine months.

His "big break" came recently when the Customs Department gave him approval in principle for a manufacturing licence, he said.

Mr Robinson has been brewing whisky for years but only discovered the practice was illegal when he was visited by the department late last year.

The distillery would be an authentic "log cabin" building, possibly with a malt house on the side, he said.

However, the original copper distilling equipment will be replaced by stainless steel to meet health regulations.

Mr Robinson will not be able to call the brew "whisky" because whisky is matured in wood for three years.

But Hokonui will feature in the name and he already has labels made, complete with skull and crossbones.

The skull had a policeman's hat on, he said. "One didn't work without the other in the old days. You couldn't have the legend without the police because one kept the other in balance."

He hopes to provide tourists with samples and eventually sell the brew, but has yet to find out what licences would be required.

He is also seeking funding for the project. Mr Robinson's eight old stills, dating back to the 1920s, will be displayed at the site and one might be working but not producing alcohol, he said.

"It will probably be just water going through it."

He recovered the stills, in pieces, from farms in the Hokonui Hills.

The area has been associated with moonshine since 1870 when a Mrs McRae, a widow, emigrated from Scotland, bringing a small still with her in a box labelled "household goods".

Her sons, Murdoch and Duncan, also became involved in the illicit industry.

Mr Robinson hoped the distillery, a "monument to the McRaes", will be educational for locals as well as tourists.

But he will not be giving away all his secrets. Recently he discovered a flowering plant in the bush which was "self-malting" and gave a good, if not better, flavour than traditional recipes using grain and peat.

"I'll be divulging as much as people need to know," he said, with a smile. "Telling them the basics but holding back on the finer points."

This article follows on from that printed in MiNiZ Vol.8 no.1.

It appears that Mr Robinson is going to commercially produce his "Old Hokonui" whisky.

The item below follows on from the article printed in MiNiZ Vol.8 no.3 regarding "LAMMERLAW" whisky.

It appears the Dunedin-produced whisky has made a major commercial breakthrough by being marketed in Great Britain, including Scotland.

[The club will be approaching both of these whisky manufacturers to see if they will be putting out minis of the their products in the near future. Editor]

Dunedin whisky to go on sale in Britain

By Mark Thomas
A single malt whisky made in Dunedin will soon be on sale throughout Britain, including in Scotland the home of malted spirits.

The Oddbins chain of liquor outlets has just confirmed an order for Lammerlaw whisky, made at Wilson Distillers in North Dunedin.

The general manager of Seagrams New Zealand, Mr Steve Nicholson, said the 10-year-old single malt would be sold at 170 stores in Britain.

"That's the breakthrough we've been hoping for," he said.

The whisky is the first batch of 10-year-old single malts produced at the distillery since

Seagrams took over in 1982.

Mr Nicholson hoped the British exposure would provide a stepping stone into Europe.

"Oddbins will be giving Lammerlaw substantial promotional support with tastings and displays in their stores to introduce people to the single malt whisky from New Zealand."

He declined to say how much whisky had been ordered but indicated it was a major contract with the potential for expansion.

The whisky was introduced in November last year and has already been exported to Australia and the Pacific Islands.

Despite the success of the whisky, the Dunedin distillery

is about to lay off six people on its bottling line.

The Distillery manager, Mr Peter Martin, said the decision had been made by the owners and would come into effect by mid to late March.

"Everything not related to distilling will go. We're going to be a pure distillery," he said.

An announcement on who would do the bottling would come from Seagrams New Zealand and Australian general manager in Australia.

The distillery was not in any financial trouble, Mr Martin said.

"In actual fact, we're booming."

The distillery currently employs 34 people.



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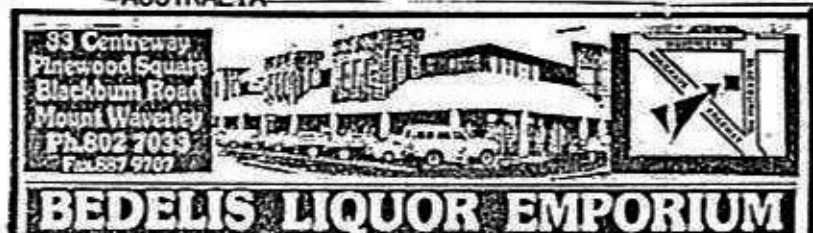
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