



NEW ZEALAND

MiNiZ

THE NEWSLETTER OF PORT NICHOLSON MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



New Zealand's only Miniature Bottle Club

Editorial

Hi there this is the first magazine to be produced by yours truly and what a task. All hail to the previous editors for their intestinal fortitude in sticking to the task. If it can be truly said that the magazine is the sum total of it's memberships contributions then this magazine would have five pages and the club two members. My thanks to David and Jackie Smith for their input and then well the mailbox has been empty. So how does one produce a magazine that is readable, informative and entertaining and has enough pages so that it is not finished whilst walking from the mailbox to the front door. Well from this thought I have developed this magazine. When Ken (the previous editor) passed on the supplies for the job he also passed on a wonderful array of past magazines from around the world and of our own wonderful magazine so I have spent delirious hours wading through this material to find items I found interesting. So this issue you will see my ancestry, my preferences and my interest reflected in the articles. So what do I do for the next edition ? Oh well maybe by then we will have some more members. this will of course show from their contributions to the magazine. Of course it is just possible that the members currently in the club just can't find that stamp to post their articles to me . I will wait with baited breath.

Chris Matthews.

Front Page:

The photograph on the front page was taken at the club meeting held at Colin and Rae Kilpatrick's this year. The attendees were (left to right back row) Ken Chin, Chris Matthews, Colin Kilpatrick (host), David Smith (The man who thinks he's The Boss), Errol Brassett, Ian Butcher, Doug Lynch. (Front Row) Rae Kilpatrick (host), Jackie Smith (The lady who let's David think he's the Boss) Marj Lynch. (Foreground) Garrett Chin, (prospective member).

CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

This year the Christmas function is being held on Saturday, 16th December at David and Jackie Smith's, 86 Rawhiti Road, Pukerua Bay, Tel: 04 2399 536.

This year the members decided that we would hold the function in someone's home and arrange for caterers to do all the cooking. The last couple of years the restaurants we have booked have been so crowded, being so close to Christmas, that the food and service have been appalling!!

All members have to do is come along, bring your own booze, soft drink, etc. and enjoy yourselves.

We will be serving:-

Glazed Ham
Stuffed Turkey with Cranberry Sauce

Spinach Salad
Hot Potato Salad
Rojak Salad (Cherry Tomatoes, Pineapple, Capsicums & Cucumber)
Plain boiled Carrots
Hot Beetroot
Plain Lettuce Salad

Christmas Pudding with brandy Sauce
Fruit Salad and Whipped Cream

Christmas Mince Pies - to have with coffee.

The cost for the above meal will be \$22.00 per person.

**COULD ALL MEMBERS WISHING TO ATTEND PLEASE CONTACT ME
ON 04 239 9536 BY THE 24TH NOVEMBER**

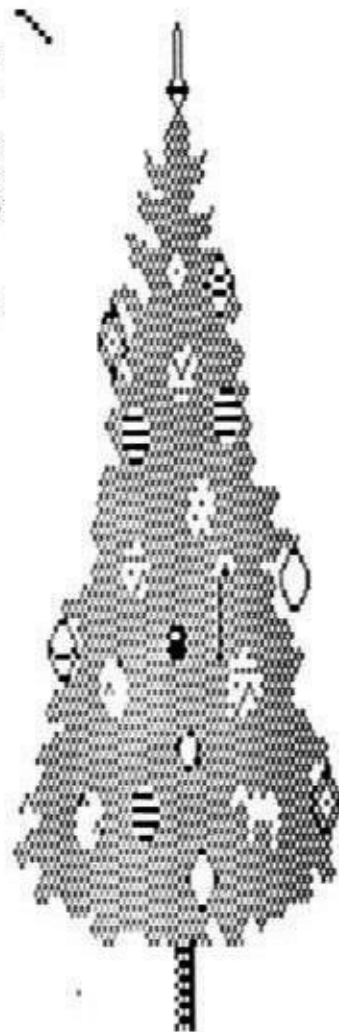
I will assume that those members who have not contacted me by that date **DO NOT WISH TO ATTEND!**
So get in quick and give me a phone so that I can give the caterers the exact numbers.

Don't forget if you want to come and live outside Wellington we can always find beds for you.

OTHER DATES TO REMEMBER -

The January BBQ will be at the Goodman's in Te Horo on Sunday 21st January

The Patea weekend will be the 17th/18th February.



Jackie

T SHIRTS FOR SALE



We printed some shirts for the club especially for the Patea Weekend. They are printed in black on white with the above design both back and front. We only have 4 left, size medium, so get in quick if you want one. The cost is \$20 each plus postage. We may be able to get some more printed in other sizes if there is enough demand.

*Send your order, ASAP, to the club at:
P.O. Box 384, Wellington*

Are They Genuine?

I received a letter from a member who was somewhat disappointed with the Alpa bottles. I believe a note of the concerns and my reply would be of interest to many of you.

The member wrote: My concern is that 90% of the bottles I obtained contain water. I presumed, prior to forwarding my order, that the contents shown on the label was what was actually in the bottle, so you can imagine my disbelief and disappointment on my discovery. I wonder whether you have received any other complaints? I strongly believe that the advertising of these bottles was misleading and in breach of the Fair Trading Act. I do not hold you personally responsible but would be interested in your opinion, or to hear from any other member who was as disappointed as I was.

My reply was: Thank you for your letter. The concerns you raise are not uncommon among newer collectors or those who have been collecting in isolation.

The bottles you received were all full, some of them with the original liquor and some with water. Alpa supplies both sorts in most bottles, it depends normally to which country they are going to which they supply. I think I am right in saying that all the bottles we obtained with the last order contained the original liquor. In any event there is no difference in the labelling, other than a peel off bottom label. In the case of wines with coloured water they are probably better as they will not deteriorate over the years. Note that cans always contain water as beer rots aluminium very quickly.

This situation is not unique to Alpa. All the Argentinean micros contain water or sugar syrup. The British Gold Seal series, which were manufactured between 1948 and 1954 and which are now highly sort after, all contained sugar syrup. If you have any New Zealand beers in bottles similar to Guinness bottles that is because they are Guinness bottles. They were all bottled in Dublin and the different NZ beer labels put on here.

Many ceramic bottles are commonly supplied empty. There are two reasons for this; 1) It is illegal in most countries, including our own, to send alcohol through the post 2) Ceramic bottles "craze" inside with time and the liquor may then stain the outside of the pottery. For this reason many collectors who receive full ceramics empty them. The club has put together a number of orders for ceramic bottles over the years and from a dealer they always arrive empty. Indeed, on a couple of occasions we have had almost a 'do it yourself kit' with the labels not being stuck on either (we couldn't complain as we had done such a good deal with the manufacturer).

I trust that this answers your questions, other than to say that we have not had any other complaints. If you are dissatisfied I will happily buy them off you personally as I know I can sell them at a profit for one phone call!

David Smith

Have You Seen These?



The above five bottles were all bottled in France but what makes them so interesting to me is that all state "Specially prepared for the New Zealand market." Why, many years ago, the French should specially prepare Cherry Whisky, Orange Whisky and Prunelle D'Anjou for the New Zealand market beats me. Perhaps it is a sign that they didn't like us even before we started complaining about them letting off nuclear explosions in our backyard or blowing up peaceful ships in our harbours, or maybe it was just the French being as strange towards Anglo Saxons as only the French can be.

These bottles are all obviously very old, my guess being the 1950's. There are two known variations of French Fills Orasky Orange Whisky, 75 proof and 56 proof, both of which are shown. Similarly, there are two variations of Chesky Cherry Whisky, 75 proof and 49 proof, again, both of which are shown. Only one variation (can you have one variation?) of Prunelle D'Anjou is known and shown. This is 70 proof.

Keep a keen lookout for these. You will also find almost identical bottles in old collections that do not say they are specially for the New Zealand market.

David Smith

VARIATIONS LOVE 'EM OR HATE 'EM



This will be the last of this series of articles, at least for the time being. All the articles were written on the same day back in August 1993 when I was off sick. The good Dr. Editor will have to sign me off work if he wants any more.

As promised this time we have two Vodkas. Above is Samovar. A samovar is a Russian tea urn. It is unusual in that it is heated by a charcoal filled tube that passes through it. There are 8 known New Zealand variations of Samovar. Missing are Vodka Samovar 47ml 42.8% CLR:RD and two Vodka Samovar 47ml CLR:SHAPED.

Last, but not least, is Smirnoff. Smirnoff is the worlds largest selling vodka. The brand name is now owned by the giant American distiller, HUBLEIN Inc. Before the Russian revolution in 1917 the brand was Russian. Founded by Pierre Smirnoff the company held Royal Warrants from the Imperial Russian Court. I understand that in the last few years HUBLEIN have been selling bottles of Smirnoff to the Russians. Below are shown all 6 known New Zealand variations.

David Smith



Tales of Cocktails



In the last miNiZ we showed you six cocktails from a variety of manufacturers, today they are all part of the same set from Reid Stuart & Co. (NZ) Ltd. They were produced in Auckland about 15 years ago.

You will find four of these five Double O Seven or 007 cocktails in almost every New Zealand collection. The picture of four of them is therefore mainly for the benefit of our overseas members. How many of our New Zealand members have the fifth, Vodkatini in their collection? Two that we know of!

Why, when all the others are extremely common, is the Vodkatini one of the rarest known New Zealand bottles? If anyone can answer that please do.

I found my Vodkatini in a junk shop in Opotiki. It was empty but otherwise in perfect condition. I rang my bank manager to see whether he would extend my mortgage or whether I could take out a personal loan for the cost. He refused. Somehow I found the 50c and bought it anyway!

If any of our overseas members want four of the bottles shown above you only have to ask. If you want all five by all means ask, but don't hold your breath.

David Smith

You Collect What?

We've all heard this question many times before and we're likely to hear many more times in the future. Why everyone thinks mini-bottle collecting is so unusual is beyond me. Next time, you can throw your friends and relatives for a loop and describe your hobby in new terms. Just pick one word from each column. With apologies to Roger, any combination will spell ...

<i>Miniature</i>	<i>Liquor</i>	<i>Bottle</i>	<i>Collector</i>
Small	Libation	Flask	Gatherer
Undersized	Broth	Decanter	Amasser
Wee	Booze	Vial	Collator
Stunted	Stock	Flacon	Compiler
Lilliputian	Essence	Receptacle	Archivist
Minute	Juice	Container	Accumulator
Dwarfish	Spirits	Vessel	Assembler

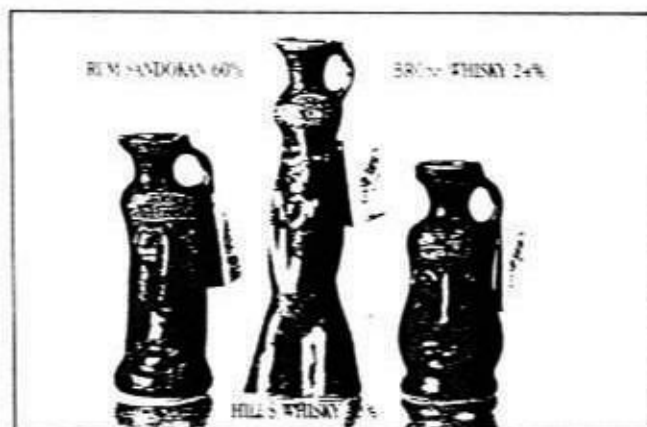
THE FIRST CZECH HAND-MADE CERAMIC MINIATURE BOTTLES

– with whisky, gin, rum –

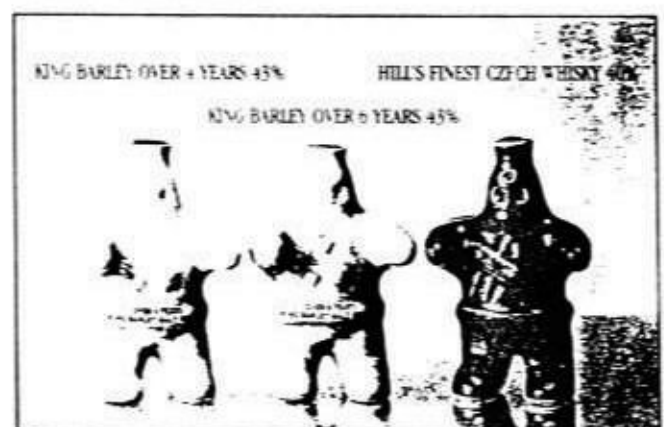
Series „DRUNKARDS’ HEADS“



Series „HAREM“



Series „GOLEM“



Series „JUGS“



ORDER FORM (Fill in how many bottles)	Prices in US\$	redd. brown		blue		green		dark brown	
		#	Number	#	Number	#	Number	#	Number
Head I (Hill's Whisky 40%)	6.90*	001		012		023		034	
Head II (Rum Sandokan 60%)	6.90	002		013		024		035	
Head III (Gin Extra Fine 40%)	6.90	003		014		025		036	
Head IV (Apricot Whisky 24%)	6.90	004		015		026		037	
Head V (Bross Whisky 24%)	6.90	005		016		027		038	
Series Drunkards' Heads (5 pieces)	30.90	006		017		028		039	
Favourite Girl (Hill's Whisky 40%)	7.50	007		018		029		040	
Eunuch I (Rum Sandokan 60%)	6.90	008		019		030		041	
Eunuch II (Bross Whisky 24%)	6.90	009		020		031		042	
Series Harem (3 pieces)	18.90	010		021		032		043	
Both series Heads & Harem (8 pieces)	48.90	011		022		033		044	
Complete series (all 32 bottles)	193.90	045							

SERIES "GOLEM"		Prices in US\$	#	Number
GOLD COCK FINE MALT WHISKY OVER 3 YEARS 40% Vol.		6.90*	046	
KING BARLEY MALT WHISKY OVER 4 YEARS 43% Vol.		6.90	047	
KING BARLEY MALT WHISKY OVER 6 YEARS 43% Vol.		6.90	048	
GOLD KING ANCIENT STYLE RYE WHISKY 70% Vol.		6.90	049	
HALBERD SMOKER BLENDED WHISKY 40% Vol.		6.90	050	
HILL'S FINEST MORAVIAN WHISKY 42% Vol.		6.90	051	
HILL'S FINEST CZECH WHISKY 40% Vol.		6.90	052	
Complete series (all 7 Golems)		43.90	053	
SERIES "JUGS"				
GOLD COCK FINE MALT WHISKY OVER 3 YEARS 40% Vol.		6.90*	054	
KING BARLEY MALT WHISKY OVER 4 YEARS 43% Vol.		6.90	055	
KING BARLEY MALT WHISKY OVER 6 YEARS 43% Vol.		6.90	056	
GOLD KING ANCIENT STYLE RYE WHISKY 70% Vol.		6.90	057	
HALBERD SMOKER BLENDED WHISKY 40% Vol.		6.90	058	
HILL'S FINEST MORAVIAN WHISKY 42% Vol.		6.90	059	
HILL'S FINEST CZECH WHISKY 40% Vol.		6.90	060	
BOURBON OLD RANGER WHISKEY-STRAIGHT KENTUCKY BOURBON 40% Vol.		7.50	061	
SCOTTISH REEL - RARE OLD SCOTCH WHISKY 40% Vol.		7.50	062	
FRASER McDONALD'S RARE OLD SCOTCH WHISKY 40% Vol.		7.50	063	
HOUSE OF STUART FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY 40% Vol.		7.50	064	
PREMIUM CROWN CANADIAN RYE WHISKY 40% Vol.		7.50	065	
Complete series (all 12 Jugs)		76.90	066	

* All prices are for the full bottle; empty bottle is 10% cheaper.

TOTAL
(including postages)

Postages

For the first bottle US\$ 3.00. For each other bottle US\$ 1.00.

Payment

Please fill in the total price of the ordered bottles incl. the postages, add a cheque and send the Order Form back to me. Make the cheque payable to **ČESKOŠLOVENSKÁ OBCHODNÍ BANKA A. S. • POBOČKA OLOMOUC • KATEŘINSKÁ 11 • CZECH REPUBLIC • ACCOUNT N° 2014003000300 FOR JAROSLAV KUBA**

Name _____ First name _____

Street _____ ZIP code _____ City _____

Country _____ Phone _____

Place and date _____ Signature _____

JAROSLAV KUBA - MBC
LUŽICKÁ 14/83
772 00 OLOMOUČ
CZECH REPUBLIC

MBC

☎ & FAX : ++42 68 / 541 37 31
☎ : ++4268 / 414 521
ICO (Reg. N°) : 180 65 007

13 JUN 1995

THE FIRST HAND-MADE CERAMIC MINIATURE BOTTLES IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

I turn to you like a collector to a collector offering you the first Czech miniature ceramics for your collection. My love of the high quality miniatures, the lack of them in the Czech market and the fact that such miniature bottles would be an outstanding exchange material for my foreign partners were the cause why I met some prominent liquor producers and importers in the Czech Republic. We have agreed on a co-operation in making and distribution of ceramic liquor miniatures with them. So the production of the first Czech hand-made ceramics could start in 1992.

Firstly a "DRUNKARD'S HEADS" called series of five funny shaped figural has been issued. Although I have been mainly in charge of the bottles' shape I have chosen as a filling for the ceramics a number of the best brands from the distillery HILL'S LIQUEUR like the liquors HILL'S WHISKY, RUM SANDOKAN, GIN EXTRA FINE, BROSS WHISKY and APRICOT WHISKY. Those minis have been 5 cm high.

Some time later a second series has been come out. Its title is "HAREM" and it consists of three figural, a "FAVOURITE GIRL" (HILL'S WHISKY) and two "EUNUCHS" (RUM SANDOKAN and BROSS WHISKY). The bottles are differently high: 15, 9.5 and 11 cm. In the Overseas there were already published rapport about both series in the newsletters "THE MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR" (USA, issue 124 1994) and "MiNiZ" (New Zealand, issue 3 1994). Each of the eight bottles is available in four different colours.

Since March 1, 1995, I offer further two series of ceramic miniatures. They are destined mainly for whisky lovers and collectors. The "GOLEMS" series are all seven whisky brands produced in the Czech Republic while there are besides the Czech whiskies further five imported whisky brands in the "WATER JUGS" series. All the imported whiskies were originally available in the big bottles in liquor shops around the Czech Republic.

The "GOLEM" is after old traditions of the Prague Jewish Community an artificial man, created of clay by Prague rabbi Jehuda Ben Löw Bezael who revived it by magic words in 1580. These Golem's figures are authentic miniatures of the mystic Golem. They are offered in seven colours - one colour for each whisky brand - and are printed with black titles. Further labels are affixed on the feet. The height of each Golem figure is 10 cm. The whiskies that are bottled into the Golems are GOLD COCK FINE MALT WHISKY OVER 3 YEARS 40% Vol., KING BARLEY MALT WHISKY OVER 6 YEARS 43% Vol. and KING BARLEY MALT WHISKY OVER 4 YEARS 43% Vol. from the SELIKO a.s. distillery, ANCIENT STYLE RYE WHISKY GOLD KING 70 PROOF from the KB LIKER a.s., HALBERD SMOKER BLENDED WHISKY 40% Vol. from the LIKERKA PLZEŇ-BOŽKOV a.s. liquor factory, as well as HILL'S FINEST MORAVIAN WHISKY 40% Vol. and HILL'S FINEST CZECH WHISKY 40% Vol. from the firm HILL'S LIQUEUR.

The twelve "WATER JUGS" are available in twelve different tinctures - like at the Golems there is one colour for each jug - and they are printed with golden labels. The jugs are 7 cm high. They are filled with the same whiskies like the Golems as well as with the following imported brands: OLD RANGER KENTUCKY STRAIGHT BOURBON WHISKY 40% Vol., produced by McCORMICK DISTILLING CO. and imported by R&R TRADING PRAGUE, PREMIUM CROWN CANADIAN RYE WHISKY 40% Vol. (Canadian branch of the JOSEPH E. SEAGRAM & SONS CO. KORD-PTAČNIK k.s.), RARE OLD SCOTCH WHISKY SCOTTISH FINEST 40% Vol. (BALERNO & CURRIE-EDINBURGH & LONDON Ltd. / GLENN HILL DOLNI BOUSOV a.s.), FRASER Mac DONALD'S RARE OLD SCOTCH WHISKY 40% Vol. (FRASER Mac DONALD DISTILLERY Ltd. / PROSTĚJOVSKÁ STAROREŽŇNA k.s.) and HOUSE OF STUART FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY 40% Vol. (HOUSE OF STUART BONDING CO. PROSTĚJOVSKÁ STAROREŽŇNA k.s.).

All the ceramics I write about are 5 ml. I will be very glad when you will tell me your opinion about my bottles also in this case that you don't order any of them from me. If you will order ten ones or more I will present you with a free miniature after your choice. Mark please this bottle with the code "Premium" in the order sheet. I will deliver the ordered bottles within 30 days after receipt of your order and your cheque respectively a transfer proof. I hope you are pleased about my offer. Looking forward to your reply I remain with the best collector's regards.

Enclosed: a leaflet

Jaroslav Kuba

DEAR SAVID,
ENCLOSED I SEND YOU AN OFFER OF NEW CERAMIC MINIBOTTLES
PLEASE COULD YOU BE SO KIND AND WOULD PUBLISH IT IN YOUR



Editors Choice

The following articles are chosen because I found them interesting. They have come from previous copies of our own magazine (1985) or from other Bottle Collector Magazines that we have received. My thanks go to The Miniature Bottle Collector (1975/78) and The West New York Miniature Liquor Club (1993)

The first is on Ports, my collection speciality, I do have most of the ones shown but am envious of the run of years that are there. The second is on architecture one of the specialities of David Smith, a collection worth seeing. The third explains the search for the rare "Welsh Whisky" a country that I have a strong affiliation with even though I'm English by birth and a drink that I can enjoy. The last is an article the I discovered written a long time ago by David Smith that I think bears repeating. I think that the relevance of insurance is keenly known by some members who have suffered from the effects of theft.

What If I Lose Them ?

Two articles have appeared in the Miniature bottle Collector on insuring a miniature bottle collection (Collectors Beware - Vol.V No.2 1978 and Insuring Your Collection Vol.X No.2 1983), but neither of these adequately cover the position in New Zealand (or Australia or the U.K. where insurance law is very similar) where insurance policies are written very differently from the States. I would go so far as to say that the articles are dangerously misleading to those living outside the U.S. I have been meaning for some time to write an article on this subject but it has taken Kevin Hewetson's letter in the last edition and questions from Robin Mellish to prod me into action.

The first rule of any insurance is to minimise your loss and maximise the payout should the worst happen. The former can be easily accomplished by keeping your minis in a cabinet, preferably screwed to the wall. This is doubly important in N.Z. where even a small earthquake can send minis tumbling off shelves. Incidentally, perspex is better than glass in New Zealand (although dearer) as it will flex rather than smash in a large quake. Cabinets will also provide some protection from the effects of smoke and/or water in a small fire as well as keeping your minis away from 'little fingers'. (There is less dusting too!)

To maximise the payout you should do three things:

1. Fully insure them (I'll come to that later)
2. Keep an up to date list, keep it away from the minis and preferably out of the house altogether.
3. Take some photographs of your collection. You don't need to photograph every bottle, general shots will do. They will be guaranteed to impress the insurance company's assessor (adjuster - U.K.). Remember that to someone who doesn't collect, your collection probably looks more valuable than it really is - a great advantage if you've had a loss.

Now to the tricky part, how much are your bottles worth and how much should you insure for?

The myth I must explode is that you DO NOT have to insure them separately from your other household effects, although you may do so if you wish. An 'All Risks' type of insurance will cover you for more eventualities than a standard household policy, but usually at a greater cost. Whilst most Insurance Companies operating in N.Z. have a cut-off point for collectables and "works of art" under which they do not have to be specifically declared, eg. "\$400 or \$500 or 10% of the sum insured, whichever is the less", my own Insurer does not. This means that provided no one bottle is over this value you merely have to assess the value of the bottles and add that to the value of your other household contents. The Policy Wordings/Conditions do vary between Insurers and it would pay to check with your own insurer on this point. (One Insurance Company specifically excludes breakage of china, crystal or porcelain). You will have to bear the first few dollars of any loss (the amount varies with each policy). In the event of loss by earthquake this is fixed and amounts to \$200 or 1% of the loss if greater.

Being a great believer in insuring adequately, my advice is to work out the value of your bottles (yes, I'm coming to that) and add the (staggering) total that you arrive at to the value of your other household goods.

There are two types of householders policy, replacement with new and indemnity. Without getting too technical, there is no N.Z. company offering a true replacement with new policy as regards your more minor household items (including your bottles). However, even if there was, there is almost no difference between replacement with new and indemnity when we are talking about a mini bottle collection.

My advice (prices applicable to N.Z. members only,) on how to value your collection is as follows:

Count up all your 'ordinary' bottles and multiply the total by \$3. or \$4. To replace some will cost more, others less; \$4. is a good average at the moment, (remember that prices will rise). Be careful though of any very old bottles. These if rare, may need to be calculated separately. A couple of the very old and rare Scotches at the club auction last year fetched \$60. each! Count up all your micro-minis and multiply by \$5. or \$6. The fancy glass and ceramic bottles should be valued by references to dealers' catalogues (Montagues, Jon Sol, etc.), remember that if you have imported them from overseas yourself the cost of postage should be added also. Chances are that you will not find some of your ceramics listed for sale. If so, take an average price of the ones you do find and apply it to the others, unless you know they are especially cheap, or dear, ones. There have been several auctions in the last few years that should also help you establish a value. However, be careful to avoid 'fluke' prices. A Ben Eagles Curling Stone sold in Christchurch for \$40. last year - this is obviously a very inflated price as it was the only one on offer and two collectors were determined to have it.

Doing the above counts and research is not as time consuming as it initially sounds and the time could be repaid many many times over.

What if the value is so high that you feel you cannot afford to pay the premium? In New Zealand, household policies are generally not 'subject to average' as many are overseas, which is helpful. (Overseas members should check to see whether their policy is subject to average and if you don't know what that means may I respectfully suggest that you find out in a hurry - ask at your local company office as many agents, regretfully, know little about the workings of the policies which they are selling.) If your policy is not subject to average, it is your prerogative to, say, only include half of the value which you have calculated. If you only have a small or medium loss you will probably be O.K. You can still claim for the full value of all your destroyed bottles and provided that your total claim (as adjusted by negotiation with the assessor) does not exceed the total you are insured for, you will be fine - notwithstanding that a large part of your effects may have been undamaged. However, if a large fire, flood, or earthquake totally destroys your household effects including the bottles, you will wish you had paid the extra premium. A point worth remembering is that if you do make the attempt to fully insure your collection and other household contents, in the event of a loss the assessor will take a far more lenient line. You will be likely to settle at a higher figure and with far less argument. Remember also that New Zealand houses, largely being of wooden construction, burn well. YOU could loose the lot.

Incidentally, if any New Zealand member does loose their collection, contact the Committee, we will help all we can.

David Smith

PORT IN MINIATURE.

THE COMPANY; TAYLOR, FLADGATE & YEATMAN.

This is the port-shipping company of which it is customary to use only superlatives. Founded by Mr Job Bearsley in 1692 it celebrated its tercentenary in 1992. By right's "Bearsley" should appear in the company name but this went through no less than 21 changes between 1692 & 1844. Joseph Taylor came into partnership in 1816, John Fladgate in 1837 and Morgan Yeatman in 1844.

Taylor's as it is known in it's shortened form has built up a reputation as a "First Growth" among port shippers and is often referred to as "the Latour of ports".

THE MINIATURES;

Bottle's 1-5, are examples of "Late Bottled Vintage" (LBV) style of port pioneered by Taylor. Bottle 1, a TRG with Taylors "4XX" trademark as a paper label just below the neck. The main label is also paper, printed predominately white on black, with the word "port" being in red. This miniature is known to exist for the years 1971, 1972 & 1974. All 3 have cork tops. On bottle 2 the 4XX neck label has gone along with the "reserve" description from the main label. You will also note that the typeface used for "Late Bottled Vintage" has changed. This miniature has a cork top and is only known to exist for the year 1978. For 1979 & 1982, bottle 3 shows the 1979 variation, the paper label was replaced by one which is fired on to the bottle, again predominately white with only the 4XX and port in red, the 4XX now becoming part of the main label, both bottles have cork tops. Bottle 4 shows a variation to bottle 3 in so far that for the North American market the company uses the name "Taylor Fladgate", and is known to exist for the years 1981 & 1982 and again both bottles have cork tops. For 1986 the paper label returns (bottle 5) again white on black with "port" in red, the 4XX trademark is now embossed on the bottle just below the neck.

Bottle 6 is a Taylor's Reserve miniature for the French market, a TRG bottle with the 4XX paper label just below the neck, the main label is reddish/brown with "Taylor's Reserve" in white, and "port" in gold at the bottom of the label. In the centre of the label is a gold over green Coat of Arms, and at the very bottom in white on black "Engarrafado em Portugal". Bottles 6 & 7 both have cork tops and 7 & 8 are both TRG. 7 is a "Special Ruby" this has a white fired label with "port" in red. Bottle 8 is a "Chip Dry" white port, this has a white paper label printed predominately in black with "Chip Dry" in green and the Coat of Arms in gold. Chip Dry miniatures are also available with a white fired label. Bottle 9 is a 10yr old Tawny bottled for the German market in 1977. It is a white label with black print except for "10 years old" which is in red, the cap of this bottle is gold coloured foil. Bottle 10 is a "finest old ruby", this is a DRG bottle with the label being white with a black rectangle and a orange vertical line down the centre. Taylor's is in black, finest old ruby in white and port in gold. The legend at the very bottom states "Shipped and Bottled by British Transport Hotels Ltd. London N.W.1."



ONE



TWO



THREE



FOUR



FIVE



SIX



SEVEN



EIGHT



NINE



TEN

Tiny Topicals

by Al Halpern

Hey, let's take a trip to various parts of the world and take a look at some Architecture as represented by miniature bottles. That's our topic for this issue -- Architecture, a professional technique that has been handed down through the ages since the beginning of building.

Probably the best known of these types of bottles are the Canal Houses and the Farm Houses issued by the Rynbende Distillery in Holland. These first came to the attention of the mini collector beginning in 1959 when the Canal Houses were given free to first class passengers flying on KLM Royal Dutch Airlines. These give-away bottles have the KLM letters stamped on their backs. Other Canal Houses (without the KLM letters) and the Farm House bottles were sold elsewhere in Europe, and ten of the Canal Houses found their way to the United States and were sold here briefly. Each of the houses are given an identifying number and these numbers are etched into the bottoms of the bottles.

Several very interesting Architecture bottles have come out of the British Isles from Beneagles, McLech, and Cornish Mead.

Beneagles has issued three bottles in the shape of oval paperweights. They are green and embossed pictures on them show Edinburgh Castle, Robert Burns' Cottage, and the Tower Bridge. These bottles can be displayed either lying flat or balanced on their bases in an upright position. Imported from Scotland, these bottles have been sold in retail stores in this country, and contain Scotch Whiskey.

From McLech comes two interesting little buildings that are replicas of actual structures

that are tourist attractions -- William Shakespeare's Birthplace and Dickens' Olde Curiosity Shop. Both of these bottles are basically tan in color trimmed in dark brown and with dark brown roofs. Another piece of Architecture comes from McLech in the form of the Marble Arch, the Gateway to Buckingham Palace. This bottle is a high glaze white porcelain trimmed in a bright gold. An all tan porcelain McLech bottle has a broad base supporting a needle-like structure going into the sky. It represents the Blackpool Tower, a famous landmark that is Britain's best entertainment center. The actual tower reaches 520 feet into the sky surrounded at its base by a circus, a zoo, a huge ballroom and an aquarium. Another tower bottle is the Big Ben Tower, an embossed glass McLech bottle that is nicely detailed on all four sides, showing the famous clock at 9 o'clock. It has a circular black base which is the screw cap to the bottle. A brightly colored red and white McLech lighthouse with a brown rock formation at its base is another bottle that we should add to this collection. All of these McLech bottles, incidentally, have their openings on the bottoms--a technique that has been successfully used by McLech on most of their bottles.

The Cornish Mead Co. of Penzance in Cornwall has added two different lighthouses to our Architectural grouping. One contains Mead Wine, the honeymoon drink, and is a solid dark blue porcelain with a rubber stopper on the bottom. The other contains Mead Liqueur and is light tan with the rocky base in a darker brown. It's not unusual for the bottle makers in Britain to use the lighthouse as a subject for

This Month: Items of Architecture

bottles when one considers that there are so many actual lighthouses dotting the rocky coastlines of the British Isles. Another bottle that is indicative of existing buildings in the Cornwall area is Cornish Mead's 'in mine bottle'. The bottle includes a dark brown building with a tan base.

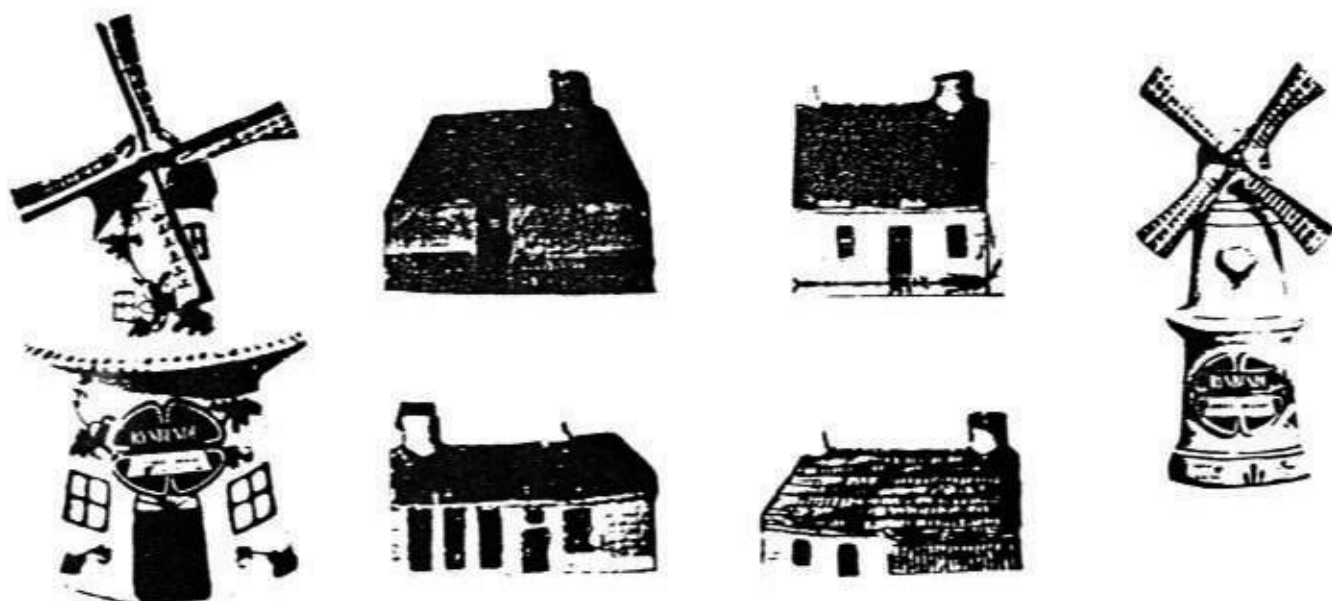
McLech under the Aides label has issued a series of bottles they call pub barrels on which are natural colored scenes of well-known Architecture -- the Tower Bridge, St. Paul's Cathedral, Houses of Parliament and Big Ben, Robert Burns' Cottage, Buckingham Palace, Forth Bridge, and Piccadilly Circus. Some of the scenes are painted on the bottles, others are decals...but, in either case, the pictures are well-defined and attractively done.

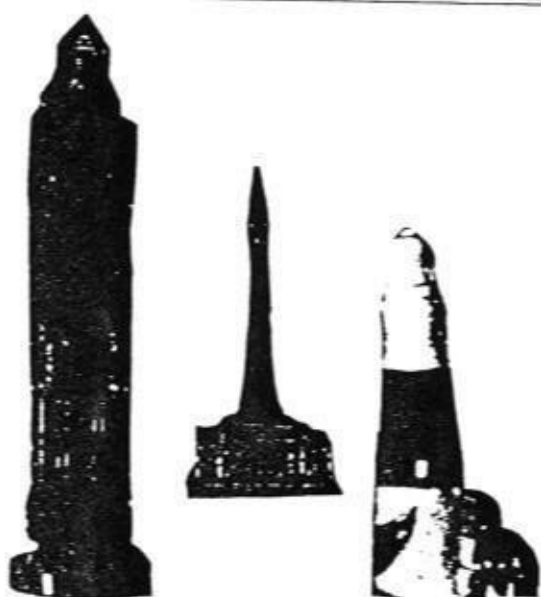
In its series of blue delft bottles, Rynbende has issued a couple of windmills that fit into our Architecture subject. One of the bottles -- round with a flat bottom -- was among the Rynbendes that were imported into the United States and sold here. The other, a rather flat looking bottle with a rounded bottom, is about an inch taller than the first windmill and has its stopper in the bottom. This latter bottle was sold only in Europe.

Of more recent issue is Garnier's set of six Farm House bottles which, of course, is suitable for our topic of Architecture.

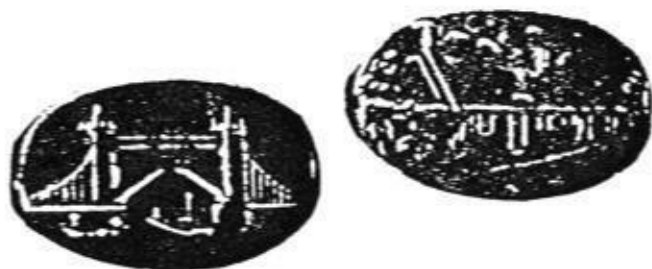
You may think we're stretching a point to include these last two bottles into our Architecture category but while they may not be considered Architecture in the true professional

From Rynbende:



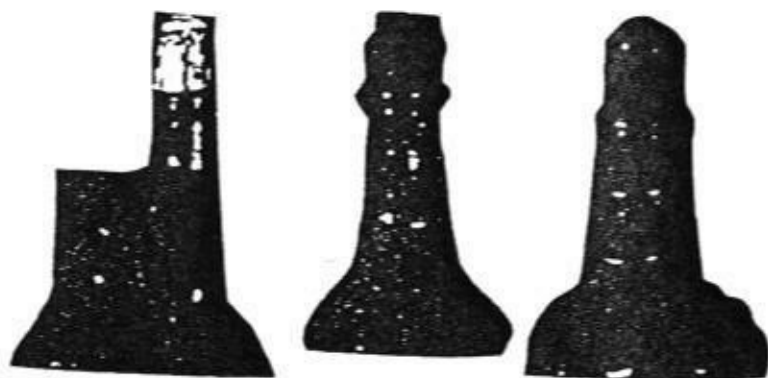


McLech



Beneagles

Cornish Mead



sense, they certainly represent actual structures. One is the Hutique 'bottle' imported from the Bahamas, representing a native grass shack, and the other is the Bee Hive bottle by Cornish Mead, and you try tellin' those bees that their hive isn't a structure!

I'm sure that there are other Architecture bottles that should be included here but I have listed enough of them to give you a good start in searching for bottles for this category. One collector I know, each year, works his mini

houses into the village scene that he sets up at the base of his Christmas tree.

Do you have a friend who is an Architect? I'll bet if you showed him this article it wouldn't take too much convincin' to get him to join the ranks of collectors of "tiny topicals."

Correction: In last issue's "Tiny Topicals" column on military miniatures, I indicated the date of the Battle of Concord as April 19, 1776; it should have been 1775! Sorry bout that! ah

In Search Of The Elusive Welsh Whisky

by Ada K. Felske

During an extensive tour of Britain in May, 1978, a newspaper article in Edinburgh, Scotland, started my search for Welsh Chwisgi. Everywhere I went I looked and asked for a Welsh whisky miniature bottle.

I found Welsh whisky being served in Kirkcaldy, Scotland, where we had stopped for a pub lunch. The whisky was served by the drink, no miniature bottles in existence that the pub owner knew about. After explaining to the pub owner that I only collect miniature bottles and I couldn't carry the full-sized bottle he offered me (empty, of course), I wrote down all the information on the label. The label was printed in Celtic, almost impossible to guess the

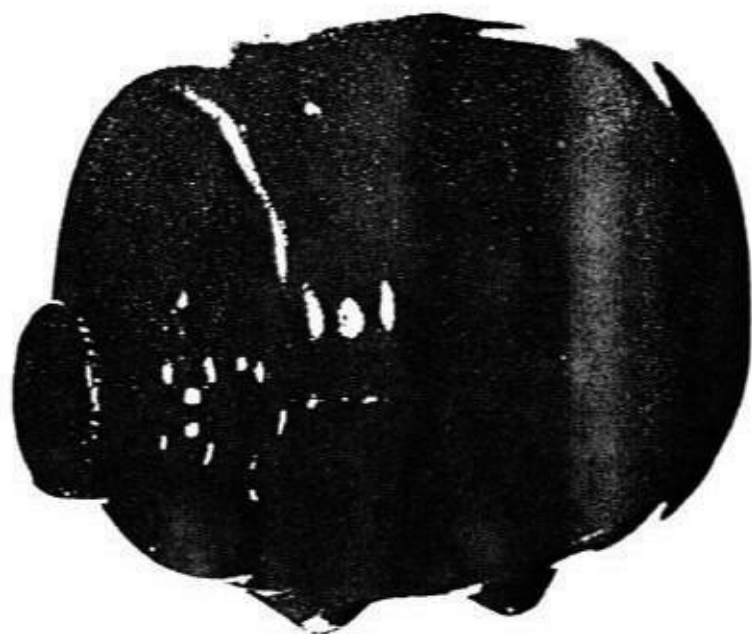
translation, but to hear the language spoken is really impossible. Mr. Hubbard did tell me the company was located in Brecon, Wales -- hence, BRYNTEG, CYMRU on the label.

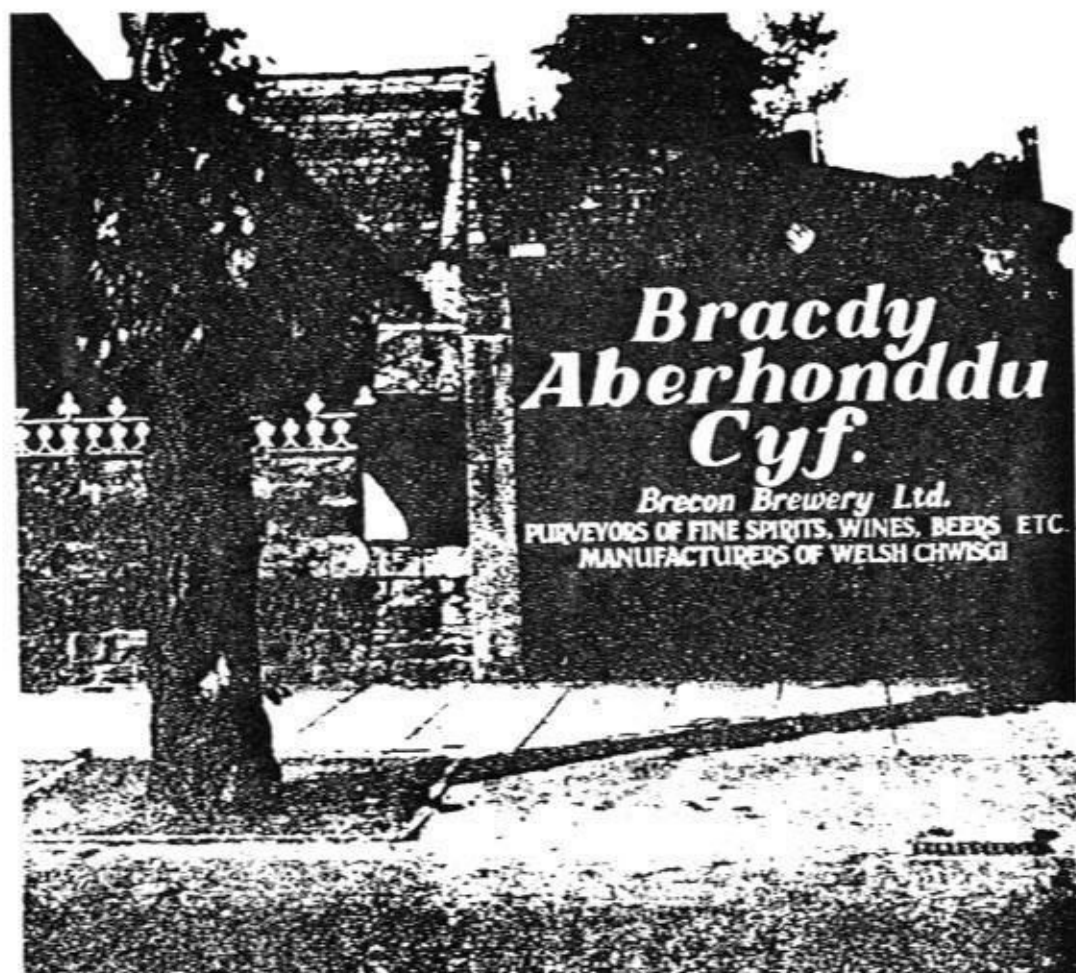
My phone call to the Wales Tourist Office in Cardiff for information (thank goodness the clerk talked to me in English) and I obtained the name, address and phone numbers of the SWNYDON WELSH CHWISGI proprietor. I was off to Brecon in my Cortina hire car, with foot to the floorboard and visions of all kinds of miniature bottles.

Mr. Dafydd (David) Gittins, the proprietor, told me he and his partner began experimenting in 1973 with an old recipe for Welsh Chwisgi and began mar-

keting their product, called Swnydon Welsh Chwisgi, in the local area of Brecon in 1975. The company operated under the name of Powys Promotions. Since 1977 Mr. Gittins is the sole owner, doing business under the name of Brecon Brewery Ltd. He is in the process of expanding the plant which at present is a very small building adjoining his pub called "Camden Arms."

Mr. Gittins explained that SWNYDON (means sound of the wave) is the trade name of the Welsh Chwisgi sold to the home market which is principally pubs in Wales, and a few pubs in England and Scotland. SWNYMOR (means sound of the sea) is the trade name for the export market he hopes to establish in Canada





and the United States.

The only miniature bottle Mr. Gittins had to show me was a small brown pottery cask with a cork for the spigot. There were only three I could purchase, the rest were leakers. He had previously bottled a few glass miniatures and sold them to off-license stores. When he completes expansion of his building there will be more miniatures available. One he mentioned was a brown vase with viskring closure over the cork, hopefully to solve the leaking problem he had with the little casks.

If you are touring southern Wales, you might want to stop and see Mr. Gittins in Brecon to check on the progress of Welsh Chwisgi miniatures. --A.K.F.--

Sŵn y don WELSH CHWISGI



26⁷ OWNS LLIFOL

PRAWF DIM LLAI NA 70°

POTELWYD A MYSCWYD, BRYNTEG, ABERHONDDU, CYMRU.

Sŵn y don



Where are all the Wellie Waters ?

As a publicity exercise the club released a Miniature bottle of Wellie Water, genuine undrinkable Wellington Water poured from a gumboot(wellington to the more refined among us). If you wanted to gain one of these prizes you were asked to find a bottle store in your area that you could deposit some with and you received yours free. This has led to several collectors becoming members and seems to be a success. How is it then that on a recent tour of Wellington Area Bottle stores I could not find any ? Below is a letter from Paul Schmitt to show you how affective this can be. Could you have a collector in your area? How about you finding out by placing these bottles around your local stores. Contact David Smith for more details.

10 Dooley Dr.,
Kitchener, Ontario
Canada N2A 1L4
13-August-95

Port Nicholson Miniature Bottle Club,
P.O. Box 384,
Wellington, N.Z.

Dear Sir/Madam,

In March of this year, I was able to attend the World Police & Fire Games in Melbourne, Australia, and was fortunate enough to be able to spend an extra week in New Zealand.

As a collector of mini bottles, I was in the Port Nicholson bottle shop and was given one of your WELLIE WATER miniatures as a souvenir. I collect them as a hobby and have over 500, from all around the world, but I have never been involved in trading them.

If any of your members are interested, I would be willing to compare collections, for possible trade. I will also, of course, send the \$11.00 subscription fee in my next letter.

Yours,

Paul Schmitt

