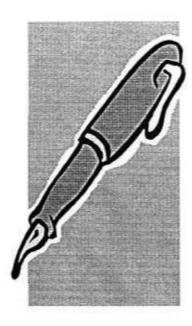
Autuma 1996



#### THE NEWSLETTER OF PORT NICHOLSON AUNIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



New Zealand's only Miniature Bottle Club



# President's Prattle

For some of you it will seem almost a year since your last miNiZ. This is both true and untrue - let me explain.

miNiZ was last produced and posted in December. Unfortunately, and for reasons unknown, most NZ members did not receive them. The overseas copies were held back a couple of weeks as Chris' photocopier was playing up and he wanted to be sure of sending good copies overseas. (Quality complaints by local members are much more easily and cheaply dealt with) The overseas copies were posted on 30th or 31st December and the NZ copies re-posted in early January. Some members have still not received them!

Frankly, we are mystified as to what is going on. Except in a few cases, we don't know whether members have received the previous miNiZ or not. You will all therefore find a copy of it accompanying this issue.

Also accompanying this issue is an up-to-date membership list and a copy of the club stock list. Some bottles on the list we have plenty of, some we can get more of but a number are now in very short supply, so get in quick.

The club continues to do well with new members joining every month. We have been losing some members, mainly we believe because of the lack of contact, ie. If we don't produce miNiZ regularly how can we expect members outside the Wellington region to remain. Editor, Chris has committed himself to producing at least four issues of miNiZ per annum but this can only be done if members send in articles. These can be written by yourself or culled from somewhere else - keep your eyes out.

As you can see, I am still President. We have a full committee with one new member. A full report on the AGM appears elsewhere.



## McRoberts

The bottles shown on the cover are a brand new set of 12 from a brand new New Zealand producer. The McRoberts label is owned by The Hop Shop of Oamaru. In fine print on the label it states "Brewed and Bottles in the Mist of the Kakanuis".

Starting from the top left they are White Rum, Brandy, Bourbon, Gin, Peach Schnapps, Midori, Black Sambuca, Coffee Liqueur, Whisky, Dark Rum, Irish Creme and Vodka.

The bottles are, unfortunately, plastic but on the basis that any minis are better than no minis, the club has them all for sale at \$3.50 each (see the stock list accompanying this issue of miNiZ).



## BELLAMY'S

Bellamy's Dry Gin is a real find and the fact that it is in perfect condition only adds to the pleasure. The label is edged in gold, the bottom half is pale blue and the top white. In the centre is a "shield" showing Parliament Buildings and across the top are the words, Parliament Buildings Wellington.

For our overseas members I should point out that Bellamy's is the restaurant in Parliament Buildings. It is only open to MP's, staff and their guests.

This gin was bottled by Booths Distillers (NZ) Ltd, Auckland. Judging by the bottle I would say that it was probably bottled in the 1960's. As this is the only one known it is a reasonable supposition that it was only sold through the restaurant - a good nightcap for our worthy legislators after a late night sitting! If this did not have the name of a reputable NZ distiller on the bottle I may have been tempted to think it was like the 1950's bottles of "scotch" from Japan that said "Bottled in Buckingham Palace."

If there is a gin, was there also a scotch, vodka etc.? Anybody know any MP's?



## What's New?

First off, two sets of Havill's Mead Jugs. "The first International Gnome Convention, 17 - 19 March 1995 Christchurch, New Zealand" should have been in miNiZ last year but was forgotten about. Interestingly the bottle reckons that Gnome is an acronym for "Guarding Naturally Over Mother Earth". The second set was for the reunion of the founding families of Ashburton. In each case there are three colour tops, Blue, Brown & Green.

Next are 5 'transition' bottles. Marlborough Fruit Distillers, otherwise known as the Alsace - New Zealand Distilling Company Ltd., went broke. They were bought out by Pacific Distilling Company Ltd. who use the trade name Prenzel. As an interim measure to use up existing stocks of bottled product, they had a neck label made with Prenzel on and these were added to the bottles, both large and small. The neck label is the only difference between these and those the club has for sale (stock list numbers 73 -80). The five shown are the only ones that were issued with this neck label.

The label was changed completely by Pacific, as were some of the products. There is a new set of 6 with the new label. These are pictured on the stock list (nos. 106-111). Frankly, I don't think that the new label is an improvement. It is purple with gold writing and a panel on the side for the contents. I much preferred the old 'parchment' type label.

Other new bottles also on the stock list include Lammerlaw (105), Royal Velvet (104) which is a very shiny label and impossible to get a good photo of, Spirit of Marlborough Blackcurrent Brandy (102) which replaces the Strawberry Brandy in their current range, and the 12 McRoberts spirits and liqueurs (132 - 143).





Finally, a bottle that is not new but is new to known collections. The Montana Wines bottle shown at left was picked up up by Robin Mellish. Fortunately, where he got it from had two. I would guess it is from the 1960's judging by the cap.

Keep looking.



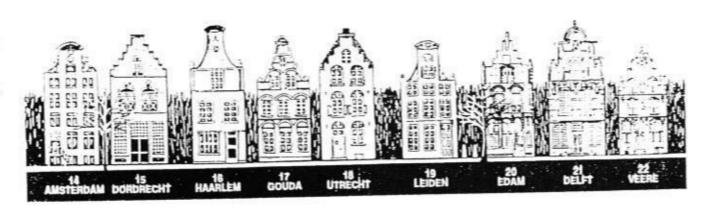


## KLM HOLIEE

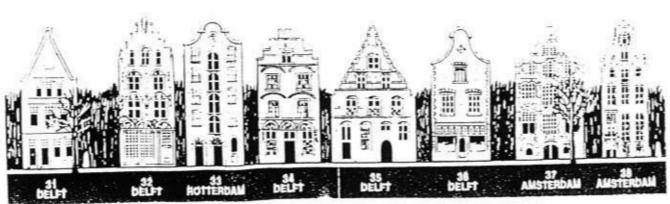
Most of you will be familiar with the house bottles given away by KLM Royal Dutch Airlines to first class passengers. They are filled with gin or cherry brandy.

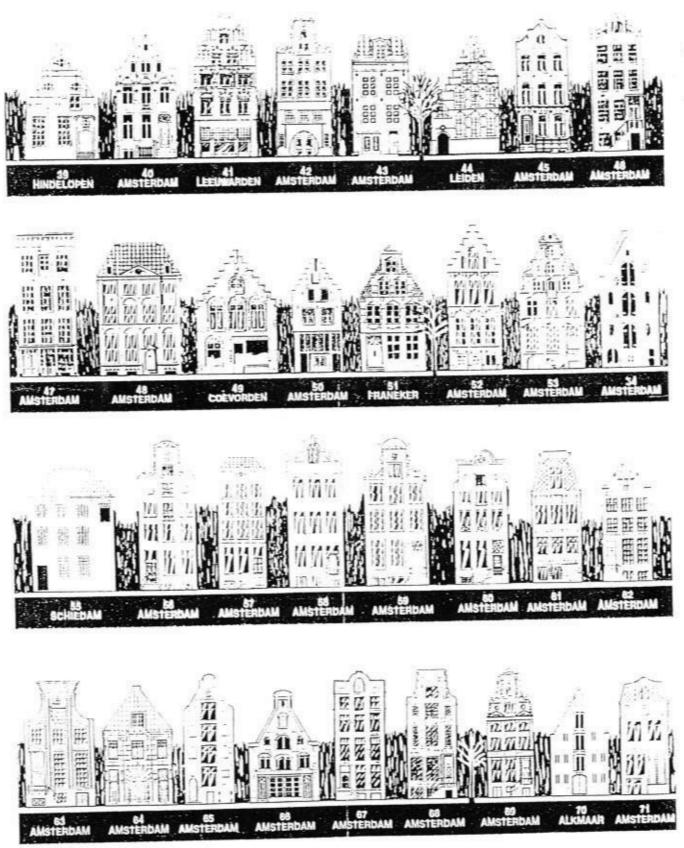










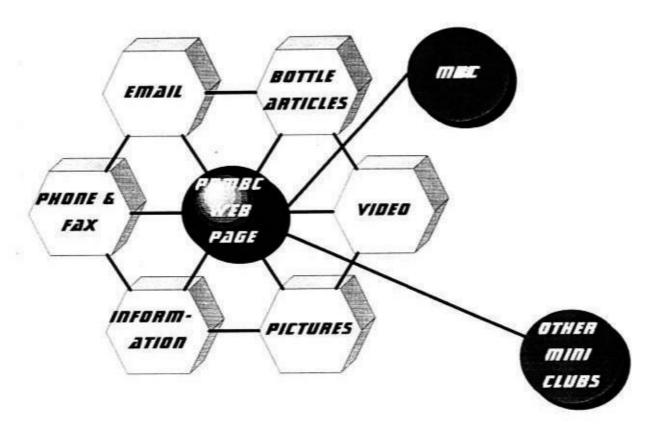




Until a week ago I thought there were 54 different designs but as you can see there are now 75. As a general rule the higher the number, the harder they are to get. This is because the list has increased in size over the years and low number ones are still being made - hence a lot more of the low numbers have been given away.

Pictures from Etica Mulder.

### PAMBE INTERNET ACCESS



Most of you will have heard at least some of the hype regarding the Internet. The Word Wide Web (WWW) is the part of the Internet that has really popularised it and caused screeds of drivel to be written about it. I am not going to write more as this is a miniature bottle club not a computer newsletter. However we cannot let go unrecorded that since last October the club has had a WWW page.

Errol Brassett, our new publicity officer, did potentially do more in the way of publicity for the club than all our other publicity combined (no offence meant of course to our previous Publicity Officers) when he set up this page.

The page is costing the club nothing as Errol gets a page free as part of his membership of Compuserve and he has donated it to the club. The page is reproduced on the next pages. There has been one change since I down-loaded it, it now has a link to the new Miniature Bottle Collector magazine page (http://mediapulse.com/mbc/). It is still under construction and Errol welcomes any ideas you may have. It can be found at:

#### http://ourworld.compuserve.com/home pages/Errol\_BRASSETT

It is not at present easy to find without this address but Errol is in the process of registering the page with the major Internet search engines and various club indexes etc. Hopefully when this is done if anyone does a search for miniature bottles or Port Nicholson Miniature Bottle Club our page should be at or near the top of the list.

The line near the top which reads: "Interested in collecting miniatures? Press here for more information" takes you to an E-mail link to Errol. We will be including E-mail and fax numbers on the next update of the club address list so please let us know yours if you have one. If you wish to E-mail the club you can do so via:

Errol Brassett David & Jackie Smith errolb@moc.govt.nz dsmith@voyager.co.nz

#### Obituary

#### Rae Kilpatrick

It is with great regret that we must note the death of a great friend to our club. Rae, the wife of Colin a member of the club was a stalwart supporter of our meetings turning up more often than a lot of members in Wellington. She would patiently wait for the "boring bits" to be dealt with at the meeting proper, entertaining the children of members and always found time to inquire as to their health and activities.

Rae will always be remembered for her smile and a quick intelligent conversation. Her firm and guiding hand with husband Colin often brought chuckles to those present.

She was always willing to participate in the activities of the club and was a regular host of meeting at the Kilpatrick home.

Even during her all too short illness she displayed these qualities and kept the cheerful banter going with a house full of guests.

It was a sign of the great respect that Rae engendered that the service was packed out and overflowed into other rooms in the building.

All those who knew her will miss the gracious lady of our club...

# MBG on the WWW

Below is just a taste of what you can expect if you visit the **Miniature Bottle Collector** World Wide Web site on http://mediapulse.com.mbc/

I have purposely included part only of the article on German Giveaways. Current articles (at time of writing) are shown at the bottom of the page. There is even provision, for those of you with an E-mail address, to have yourself listed, together with a note of what you collect.

#### German Giveaways



You may know these bottles under one of a variety of names: giveaways, German giveaways, German porcelains, nips, nippers, grotesques, etc. You're surely free to call them whatever you want; however, they were manufactured in Germany and many were produced by the firm of Schafer and Vater which began sometime from 1890 to 1896 and closed its doors possibly as late as 1962. These bottles though date from the 1890's to the 1920's, of that there seems to be general agreement among collectors. The bottles are found in the United States, the United Kingdom, and France, but as of yet are unknown in Germany. They come in a variety of sizes from just a few inches to well over a

foot. They are found in both high glaze and bisque and in multi-color, blue, brown, gray, and an occasional green. This time we will look at two brown and two blue.

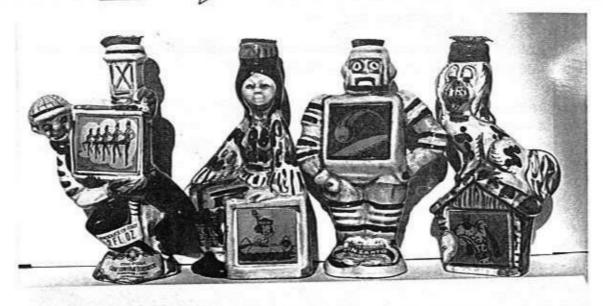
There's really very little to tell as the bottles speak for themselves. Some of these will on the rarest of occasions be found with a paper label. More will be discovered to have the name of a bar or restaurant etched into the porcelain. It is the bars prior to prohibition which used them and have allowed us now to have some delightful collectibles.



Wedgewood | German Giveaways | Sheridan's | Murano

MBC What's Featured Turn Back The Upcoming Home New Articles the Clock Marketplace Events

## MO WING PICTURES



Above and below are some of my favourite bottles. I remember that I bought two of them at one of the West Coast Bottle Shows and showed them to Marcia Spaid. "Rather tacky aren't they" said Marcia. Yes, Yes, Yes, that's why I like them!

They date from the 1950's. Each figure holds a picture that moves when you either move yourself or the bottle. This effect is generated by printing the picture / pictures onto a fine series of plastic prisms. I remember things like this from when I was a kid; you would get a card with such a picture on with a packet of bubble gum. I feel sure there is a correct name for these - does anyone know it?

First up a rather shady looking chap, leaning on a lamppost and watching a line of dancing girls. The second bottle is an Indian squaw. She is sitting on a picture of a young Indian paddling his canoe. Next is the robot. He (she? It? - I have no desire to be politicly incorrect you understand) has a picture of a moving comet on his chest. Last in the top picture is a dog sitting on his kennel. The picture shows another dog trying to rid himself of a bee on his nose.

The first picture below shows a guitarist/singer and a picture of two people jiving. The rather rude lady (cover yourself up madam!) is holding a picture of a bongo drum player and lady dancing. Last but not least is a cat hugging a tree with a bird house in it. The bird in the picture is feeding her chicks.

Like a lot of Italian ceramics these bottles can be found with different labels on. I always refer to them as "stock" bottles, not to be confused with bottles from the Stock Liquor Company. Mine have either Drioli or Casa Vinicola Boccaccia

Someday I believe that collecting pictures like this will take-off and then these will be some of the most valuable bottles in my collection.





## Patea Meekend & AGM - February 1996

In our usual inefficient manner, once again nobody was asked before the weekend to do a report on it. I could just say "A good time was had by all" but I suspect you all want to know more than that.

This year most people turned up Friday - it does seem a much longer weekend if you can arrive Friday. The usual crowd attended with two notable exceptions, Jean Gardner, who died last year, and Doug Lynch who was rolling his balls around a patch of green. One member, Sharyn Cummings, came for the first, but obviously not the last, time.

As usual we all ate and drank too much. We spit-roasted a lamb again this year and, with the benefit of experience with regard to how long we had to cook it, it was truly excellent. A 5 litre bottle of (good!!!) Chianti was bought to go with the lamb, and go it did-very quickly!

Dianne organised a liqueur tasting competition on the Saturday night. Guessing which liqueur you are drinking is far harder than you might imagine. Most people went to bed much earlier than normal, supposedly because of the liqueurs but I suspect the Chianti also had something to do with it.

Next year, thanks to Sharyn (who lives on a farm), we will be spit-roasting a pig. Sharyn has offered to raise one especially for us, which will get the cost down to a reasonable level. That's one new member hooked on the weekend - how about you coming next year?

There was no fishing trip this year as Ron had lent his towing vehicle to Malcolm (his son). It was a real shame as the weather was perfect for it on the Saturday. The shooting was good as usual. Ian Butcher bagged three rabbits, that are now in our freezer, and I bagged one feathered rabbit???

Much use was made of the swimming pool.

A number of the members even had their first go at scuba diving. Those that went out for a walk on Saturday morning got somewhat worried when they saw the Brassett children (youngest 8) having a go with my rifle. All acquitted themselves well - could be a dangerous family to tangle with in the future!

Sunday morning tea (about 5 minutes after breakfast - why do we keep doing this to ourselves?) was at Pam Fowler's with suitable oooh's and aaah's expressed over her collection.

The swap meet was lively with more than the usual number of bottles changing hands. There was some new club stock for sale also, mainly thanks to David Maund clearing out his garage. A current club stock list accompanies this miNiZ.

The AGM was well attended and the following people were elected:

David Smith President: Vice President: Colin Kilpatrick Robin Mellish V.P. South Island: lackie Smith Secretary: Ian Butcher Treasurer: Publicity: Errol Brassett Pam Fowler Supplies: Editor: Chris Matthews

The contact addresses and telephone numbers are on the updated club address list accompanying this miNiZ.

It's nice to see a new face on the committee. Errol has alredy got the publicity wheels in motion (see elsewhere in this issue). Special thanks to Dianne Opie who has done an excellent job as supplies officer for the last few years. Dianne says she just needs a rest from the job and will be back on the committee - threat or promise Di?

Special thanks to Ron & Di for once again being marvellous hosts.

David Smith

#### OBITUARY Thomas F Nagelin

When David Smith last visited Christchurch he asked me if I would write a few words with regards to Tom Nagelin who passed away last year. Few of you have met Tom and some may not have known that he was a member of our Club.

Tom lived in Anaheim in the U.S.A. I first met him several years ago when he was on a tour of New Zealand. When he passed through Wellington he -contacted David Smith who suggested that he contact me when he arrived in Christchurch. We spent a very pleasant Sunday afternoon together in my "mini room" with a few drinks and a cup of tea. I well remember he was quite surprised at the number of minis I have in my collection.

The next time we saw him was in Anaheim when my wife and I were going to attend a Conference in Rio and we had arranged to spend two days in Los Angeles. He was a great host and took us to see Brian McClennans shop (the old one) and also James Triffons minis. What a collection! You may have heard the name of Triffon as he turned out several books on "Minis". The second time I visited Tom we were going to a conference in Paris and had a stopover in Los Angeles for two to three days Tom booked us into a motel not far from his own residence and almost across the road from Brian McClennans new shop which he has since sold He also took us down to Tijuana (Mexico) where I obtained a number of Tequilas amongst other minis. The last time I saw him was when he visited Christchurch with his grandsons. He of course brought me a number of minis from the States and took some back with him.

Tom sent me photo of the state of one of his cabinets after an earthquake. What a job he had getting them all back in place as a considerable number were resting against the doors. I understand that with the help of his son there was only one broken after they were all back on their appropriate shelves.

Tom was a real character He had all his minis on computer and belonged to most of the "Mini" Clubs around the world and corresponded with them regularly. Tom belonged to the Gullivers Gazette, (The Lilliputian Bottle Club) and as I understand had served in most of the positions on the committee. The Club will certainly miss him and his dry humour.

#### North of the Border

As our magazine editor has been asking for articles I thought I would see what I could do to help him out. I myself have been collecting Minis now since 1946 and have a collection of nearly 10,000. Of these nearly 2000 are whiskeys and this is what 1 have decided to write a small article on. I suppose in a sense it is rather appropriate a wife Jess comes from Glasgow.

I must say that the article written by Ken Chin in our March/April 1995 magazine on whiskeys made me decide to write on the came subject. I have all the whiskeys that Ken had photos of with the exception of the Edradour Jug which I have on order in Scotland

I was most fortunate that Jess spent some weeks in Scotland last October and brought me back 70 to 80 whiskeys which included the 500 year ones that Ken showed us in his article- I can assure you that minis in Scotland are not cheap. One, an ordinary clear bottle which was put out for the University of St. Andrews Golf Championship in 1995 was distilled in 1979 and bottled in 1995. This was put out by the Springbank distillery for the Quaich Society and was £10 and another the S.S. Politician was £8. Most of the Minis were somewhere between £3-6. There was also a set of 12 called the Wildlife Series which of course had animals and birds on their labels. One of the bottles Ken showed us on the cover of the magazine, the one with the Lion on, is from a set of three which are white ceramic with a grey, red and blue lions. I have also a 2nd set of four very similar with grey, blue, green, red lions on. They are all King of Scots.

If you are visiting Scotland I would recommend that you visit "Robin Hood", 11 St Vincent Place which is a gift shop in the centre of Glasgow. They have a great selection of minis. Another is Robert Brownlie Ltd in High Street which is a shop in Bigger a small town about 30 - 40 Kilometres south of Glasgow on the way to Peebbles. A third shop is in Moffat which is again South of Bigger near the border with England. The shop is famous for Moffats Toffee and has a large selection of miniatures at the back of the shop. In Edinburgh there is a shop called The Whiskey Shop which sells nothing but whiskeys and of course minis This is at Waverley Station which is underground in the centre of Edinburgh. I hope these addresses maybe of some help if you are looking for minis and are fortunate enough to be visiting Scotland.

Jess also bought me back a video which was given to her on Scotch Whiskeys It gives a background to what is supposed to be the six best Highland and Lowland malt whiskeys. If anyone is interested in seeing this video let me know and I would be quite happy to lend it to you that is if you reside in New Zealand.









I have also sent half a dizen photos of what I consider the more unusual and old whiskies which I have. In the fitting I will try to do another article on whiskeys. Hoping you have found something interesting in what I have written. Best of luck to you in collecting minis especially whiskeys.

Robin Mellish

The "Old Smuggler" with the Gaelic whiskey on the label is a black bottle. The only other one I have seen is in Meenan Wines and Spirits in Dunedin but that was unfortunately broken. According to the label it is 90 years old

The other "Old Smuggler" is in the old shaped bottle. Again with Gaelic whiskey on the label and not the dimple bottle as we know today. The Fortification has a coloured label and would be a very old bottle.

One of my favourites is the whit ceramic jug from Tomintoul with a "Wee dram an Doruis" painted on it-

The Crawford is again a very old bottle with "Old liqueur on it. The "Plus Four" has a golf ball label on the back. The "Royal Vat Whiskey" has a pre-war strength on the neck label. I presume it to be World War I

"Ye Old Mill" whiskey bottle is another of my favourites with a very good label. The "Heather Dew" is a black bottle with "extra Special" liqueur label. The "Roderick Dhu" and the "Craig Castle" are another two very old whiskeys.













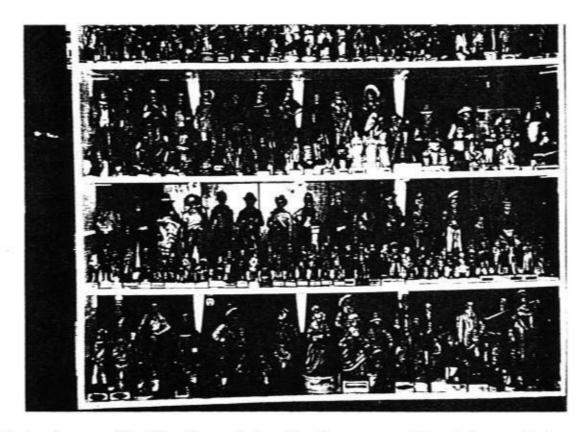




#### Canadian Sojourn

Before going on a trip to Canada recently, I Happened to see an advertisement in the MBC magazine and I contacted the person. I would recommend this to any one travelling. Not only do you make good friends, but you get a chance to see other collections. Joe and Pauline went out of their way to find me minis, even getting me a lot from the States.

I now have a pair of life long friends in Calgary Joe's collection of 10,000 minis and decanters was really worth seeing.



He has given me a list of double ups that are for sale, so any one interested can contact me for a copy.

We now have a new member in our club.

Thank you Joe and Pauline for making me most welcome in your home. I wish you many more years of collecting.

These are some photos of a few of Joe's collection.

Pam Fowler

#### Notices

#### **Bottles for Sale**

Janne Nattrass has advised me that in rationalising her collection she has quite an extensive collection of bottles for sale.

This includes Prince Hubert and Remy Martin brandy decanters, several fine ceramics, and N.Z. bottles.

Janne is a member of the club and her address and name are on the new membership list included with this newsletter. If you want to email her contact is NATTRASSJ@SYNERGY-INT.CO.NZ

#### Change of Address

Kristine Martin C O Post Office St Andrews South Canterbury

#### New Member

Ken Vavrek 1004 Sundance Drive McKees Rocks PA15136 USA

LIVING: To Savour Scotch is to Taste the Sea

April 19, 1995

Matching Whiskies With Food: Best in the Smallest of Doses

#### By MARIAN BURROS

In Scotland, those who overindulge in single-malt whiskies sometimes find their way home in wheelbarrows.

This is not the image the distillers are seeking to cultivate abroad. They want imbibers to savour the aroma of the amber liquid and to hold it in their mouths like a first-growth Bordeaux, not throw back their heads and toss it off from a shot glass.

To that end, distillers have been encouraging ritualized and elegant tastings of Single-Malt Scotch, like those done for wine. But it is hard to be as serious about a drink that some people think tastes like medicine. The Laphroaig distillery, in Islay, (pronounced EYE-luh) Scotland, often receives letters from customers who cannot believe how powerful its single malt is, as in: "I tried your whisky and it tastes like medicine."

Nevertheless, single malts are becoming very popular in the United States; Shipments of Whisky have risen 9 percent in the last five years. Single-malt Scotch dinners, where the drinks are matched with foods, mimicking wine dinners, are becoming more common. Recently, the American Institute of Wine and Food had one at The Markham, a restaurant in Greenwich Village where single malts from each of the four whisky-producing regions of Scotland - the Highlands, the Lowlands, Speyside and Islay - were sampled.

Before the dinner, Clark Wolf, an owner of the restaurant, invited several members of the staff to preview the meal and ten whiskies.

It Seemed prudent to taste the whisky without food first And a good thing, too. Scotch is better without food, and tasting five or six is better than tasting 10. Single malts may be complex and interesting, but that does not make them good dinner companions in anything but the 5mallest doses. Halfway through the dinner, the richness of the single malts overwhelmed everything they were served with. That does not happen with a properly chosen wine in the same price range between \$20 and \$100. Still the allure of the single malts is not hard to understand. The smoky flavour, the taste of the sea, of the peat, of the sherry casks is very appealing.

When Americans talk about Scotch, they are usually talking about a blended Scotch which combines a number of single malts with grain alcohol. Single-malt Scotch is a produced by a single distillery from malted barley only, and aged for at least eight years.

What gives each single malt its distinctive flavor has something to do with the with the water, the peat used in the fines, the air and the casks. Some single malts are aged in oak; others like Macallan, one of the most delicious, are aged in casks that have had sherry in them. As the whisky ages, it mellows, becomes smoother and more complex and more expensive. A 60 year old bottle of Macallan once sold for \$12,300 at auction.

As might have been predicted my notes on the dinner are not as detailed as they would have been if I had, for example been tasting veggie burgers. The smoked salmon was served with Oban which overwhelmed it, and with Cardhu, a better match. Pan-roasted quail went well with both Cragganmore and Glenkinchie because they were not too assertive. The medicinal quality of Laphroaig was perfect for the sweetness of the onion marmalade that accompanied the venison. The Bowmore, which tasted a little fishy on its own, improved enormously when it accompanied the venison "Proof," Mr. Wolf said, 'that very good food can make Scotch taste better."

The pan-roasted oysters were served with Dalwhinnie and Talisker as well as everything else that was already on the table.

The cheese was accompanied by Lagavulin but I'd given up taking notes by then, except to record, when the Spice cake and Macallan arrived, that the Macallan was my favorite.

And that there certainly can be too much of a good thing.

Outside, the wheelbarrows were waiting.

\* \* \*

Brands and How They Taste

Ten brands of single malt Scotch were tasted by Marion Burros. They are grouped by their region in Scotland; the name, age and description of the Scotch follows-

#### Lowlands

- Glenkinchie - 10 years. Light, smooth, mild, sweet and soft

#### Highlands

- Oban 14 years. Smooth, very well balanced.
- Dalwhinnie 15 years. Mild, delicate, sweet and soft.
- Talisker 10 years. Spicy, warm, peaty, sweet and sour, big finish.

#### Speyside

- Macallan 18 years. Very rich, aged in sherry, smooth, mellow.
- Cardhu 12 years. no peat flavor, light aftertaste.
- Cragganmore 12 years. Heathery fragrance, lingering finish.

#### Islay

- Bowmore 17 years. Unpleasant, tastes a little fishy.
- Laphroaig 10 years. Most medicinal; strong and peaty.
- Lagavulin Robust, peaty, smoky, salt air, less sweet than many.

#### Tasting Scotch: Sip It, Like Wine

WHEN drinking single malts, a tapered wine glass, a brandy snifter or a small straightsided glass is appropriate because it concentrates the aromas. Forget the ice; add a few drops of water - spring, of course - to bring out the bouquet.

James F. Harris and Mark H. Waymack, the authors of "Single-Malt Whiskies of Scotland" (Open Court, 1992) say the "nose," or aroma, should be smooth and mellow, never harsh and pungent.

After noting the nose, take a sip and hold it in the mouth. According to the book, sloshing the whisky around "is melodramatic and unnecessary." Swallow slowly but completely, and ask yourself these questions:

Is the flavor thin or full-bodied? Is it nutty?

Can you taste the peat, a touch of heather, the sea water?

Is there a long aftertaste or a quick one?

You know, all the questions you ask at a wine tasting. Except, maybe, the ones about heather and peat.

#### The New York Times

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