Late Summer 1998 ISSUE 49



THE NEWSLETTER OF PORT NICHOLSON AUNIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



Australasia's only Miniature Bottle Club

# Editorial / Cover Bottles / Etc.

The club continues to prosper, I'm very glad to say, but I must apologies for us being too good to you all lately. We have had a number of offers of bottles all coming at once, which is putting a strain on the finances of some members. Unfortunately we have to take the opportunities when we can and even more unfortunately you will find another great offer on the next two pages.

The McGibbons Tartan Golf Bags (red, green yellow & blue) sell for NZ\$39.95 in the Duty Free Stores and the Golf Course Decanter for about \$3 less. We have done a deal with the importer and you can have each of them for NZ\$20 each, plus postage. We ask members not to buy these for friends - the non-member price is NZ\$25 each so it would pay them to join. These should be ordered as soon as possible from our Supplies Officer, Pam Fowler, RD2, Patea, Taranaki. We can get more at present but that may not last. Incidently, the club is only making a few cents each on these.

Also on offer from the club are 8 new Shooters for \$20 plus postage for all 8 - now ain't that a bargain! They are: Italian Stallion, Blitz, Black Russian, Jolly Roger, Irish Kiss, Slammer, Deadly Nightshade and Dawn Breaker. Pictures and more details appear in 'Ken's Korner' later in miNiZ. There are known to have been two more of these, Orgasm, which has been withdrawn from the market following complaints and Dirty Girl, which may have met the same fate - we are trying to find out.

Will members that have ordered the Dianna and Irish Jugs from the Czech Republic, and micros we are out of stock of, please be patient. I am putting on hold invoicing you for the Czech jugs until Late April/early May. I will be sending another order off for micros soon but don't hold your breath as much depends on which country the factory owner is in as to how long it will be before we receive them.

I hope you like the cover, I certainly do. It shows 5 Coca Cola minis made for New Zealand and 4 cities, Auckland, Rotorua, Wellington and Christchurch. They are very difficult to obtain! Be on the look-out for Cokes like this as they have been made for various cities/countries around the world.

Also new out and shown below is a Hennessy VO Cognac bottled in New Zealand and finally, another of the 100ml Spirit of Marlborough bottles, Apricot Brandy. I understand there are 6 of these in total but so far I have only found four.

On a different subject entirely, expect to receive a bill for membership this year. The cost is the same as it has been for the last 10 years or so. 
PLEASE send the money when first invoiced as chasing you up costs time money, both of which are better expended on other things. We are not allowing one member to renew because we had to keep chasing them - you have been warned!

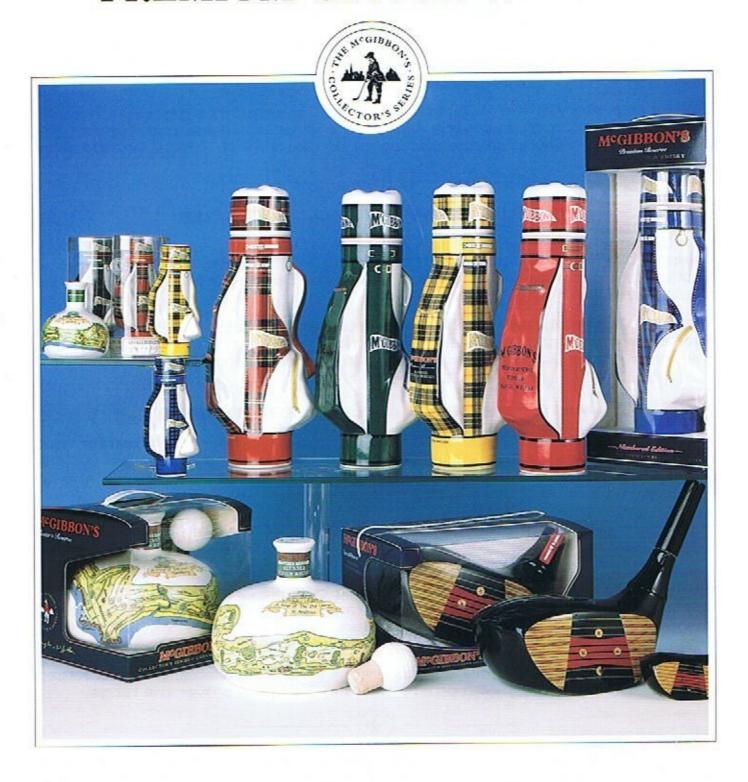
All being well we expect 1999 to be a free year again but no promises as it depends on finances. However we are currently very healthy in that department so it should happen.





# McGIBBON'S

PREMIUM SCOTCH WHISKY



"SCOTCH FOR SWINGERS"

Douglas McGibbon & Co Ltd

Douglas House, 18 Lynedoch Crescent, Glasgow G3 6EQ, Scotland. Tel 44(0)141 333 9242. Fax 44(0)141 333 9245



The McGibbon's Golf Range was created on the strength of the natural links between the royal and ancient game of golf and Scotch Whisky, in their traditional homeland of Scotland

The success story of the McGibbon's Ceramic Decanters has been built not only on the fine Scotch Whiskies but also on the ever increasing popularity of the Game of Golf, reflected in the packaging of these most Special and Reserve blends.

#### SPECIAL RESERVE - GOLF CLUB DECANTER

The Decanter is a ceramic replica of a golf driver; exact in every detail right down to the four brass screws on the club face. The piece, produced in one of Scotland's most notable potteries, contains the **Special Reserve** Blend – a real sipping whisky for the 19th hole.

The Golf Club Miniature which is gift boxed and contains the same excellent Special Reserve Blend, is available as a gift or for collectors and those who seek the charm of the Golf Club Decanter, but in a smaller capacity.

#### MASTER'S RESERVE - GOLF COURSE DECANTER

This Decanter shape is based on the curling stone – another traditional (Winter) sport in Scotland. It allows a clear display of the map and score-card (on the reverse) of 2 of Scotland's most famous Golf Courses – Turnberry and St Andrews. With more Courses to follow, this Decanter can also be "personalised" to the course of your choice.

#### PREMIUM RESERVE - Individually Numbered - GOLF BAG DECANTER

Incorporating zips, pouches and buckles the ceramic Golf Bags are available in self coloured (Red and Green) and a range of 4 different Tartans. These currently include (Blue) Elliot, (Yellow) MacLeod, (Red) Dress Stewart and the Black Watch.

As with Master's Reserve, miniature versions are also available, some packaged individually, others in 2's with others mixed in 3's and 4's over the range.



These McGibbon's Golfing decanters contain our Blend Master's favourite grain and Malt Whiskies, all of which have an unusually high Highland Malt content, which is certain to delight the discerning connoisseur. The decanters are filled close by some of the world's most famous Golf Courses and, with the contents distilled and matured unhurriedly, they should be savoured at an equally leisurely pace.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF

From the KORD website at http://www.webdesign/cz/kord/menu\_eng.htm



Kord is undoubtedly the best known name from Eastern Europe to the majority of -miniature bottle collectors. Over the years they have made dozens of mini bottles and still continue to do so.

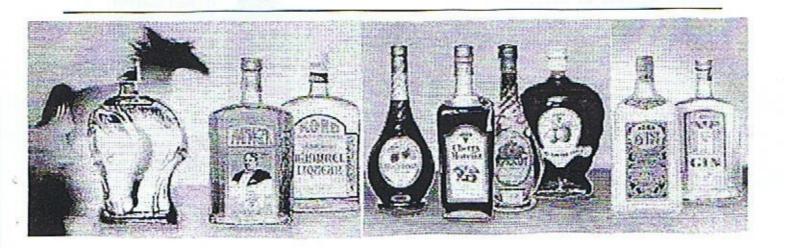
The origin of the company Kord Ptacnik can be traced back to the beginning of the 1930s, when the founder of the company Jan Ptacnik started his business of production and sale of spirits in the Hradec Kralove region. After several years of partnership in the firm Kocan-Ptacnik specialized in the production of liqueurs, Jan Ptacnik bought the factory for farm machines in Hradec Kralove - Kukleny in 1942 and transformed it into a fruit distillery and factory for making of spirits.

The after-war period witnessed great development of the production and the goods were sold also to forein contries. More than fifty per cent of the produce were shipped overseas, already under the trade-mark Kord, internationally registered since the year 1946. The success of those years could be attributed to the rather avantguard collection of spirits made of purely local raw materials and to the skill of the Bohemian glass-makers who created an original series of bottles of varied shapes with folklore motives.



In 1948 the company Kord Hradec Kralove was nationalized and became gradually a part of several state-owned firms. Forty-three years later, in 1991, the firm was returned to the children of the original owner, to his daughter Jana and to his son Milan.

The original specialization in the complex processing of fruit for spirits gave rise to current assortment of branded spirits. Their production is based on the processing of first quality natural raw materials-distilled liqueurs, fruit juice, herbs, alcohol and other ingredients - using special methods and verified recipes.





My local liquor was very helpful in getting the full set of these attractive New Zealand plastic cocktail miniatures. There are eight in the set and should be available from all good liquor outlets.

In order shown in the photos: SLAMMER: Tequila with Mexican Limes Lemon & Oranges. 22% alc.

BLITZ: Ice Mint Schnapps with Vodka.22%alc.

BLACK RUSSIAN: Vodka with Coffee Liquer. 22%alc.

DEADLY NIGHTSHADE: Peach Schnapps Liquer & Orange.22%alc.

IRISH KISS: Irish Cream Liqueur Cocktail. 17%alc.

DAWN BREAKER: Tropical Fruit Liqueur & Rum. 22%alc.

JOLLY ROGER: Black Sambuca Liqueur Cocktail. 20%alc.

ITALIAN STALLION: Italliano Liqueur with Vodka & Orange. 22%alc.

There may be two more different ones that may have been discontined. I am making inquiries and I will update in the next magazie.





On my next stop to see what new minis were around, I came across this very nice Glenmorangie bottle consisting of Madeira Wood Finish Single Highland Malt Whisky 43% alc. The only catch was to get it you had to buy a large bottle of the Glenmorangie 18yr whisky. I managed to con the manager into letting me by a cheaper bottle of whisky and throw in two promotional Glenmorangie tasting glasses as well.

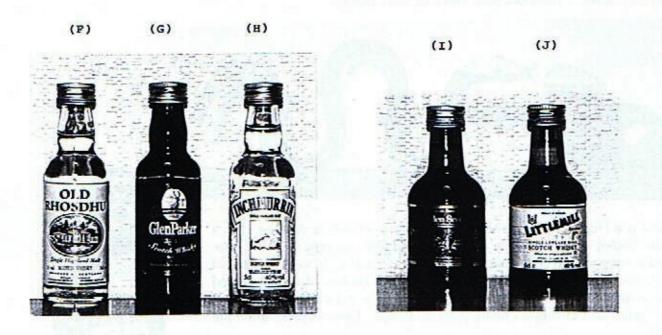




(A & B) Just before Xmas two beautiful Cutty Sark miniatures arrived on the shelves. Both are in 10-sided bottles: 12yr(green) AND 18yr(clear) at 43%alc. Cost \$8-10.

From Rumbles in Waring Taylor St, Wellington, a large number of Scotch whisky. (B)High Commissioner Blended 40%, (F)Old Rhosdhu Single Malt 40% (H)Inchmurrin Single Highland Malt 40%, (I)Glen SCotia Single Malt 40%, and (J)Littlemill Single LOwland Malt 40%.

The High Commissioner is extremely well-priced at \$2.95 and the single malts excellent value at \$5.95



(G)Glen Parker Single Malt 40% came from the Wine Well in Paraparaumu. (\$5.95)

(B) The Glengogyne Single Hihland Malt 40% comes in a nice green cylindrical tube and costs approximatlely \$8-9. Available at most specialised liquor shops.

# MIXED BAG

For no good reason herewith a mixed bag of bottles.

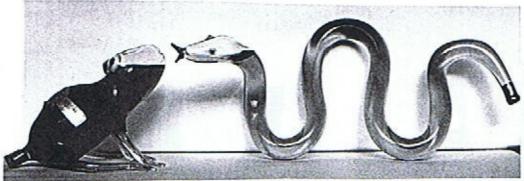


First up are three ceramics from Hawaiian Distillers. King Kamehameha I is an imposing figure who likes to be well aired around his legs. Must be the climate as neither of the other two are wearing trousers either.

Second and third bottles are the Hula Girl and the Surfer. All bottles contain rum which is why Ken Chin sold them to me (he only collects whisky).

The only other ceramic from Hawaiian Distillers that I am aware of is much more familiar, the Pineapple.

The photo below shows two glass animals that I picked up at the same auction that Ken bought the Hawaiian bottles. I have not seen either of them before.



The first is a Frog from Rynbende which contains creme de menthe. It is a wonder that it is in one piece as the feet and legs are very delicate. The second is a mystery. It is, of course, a snake. It is filled with an amber liquid but has no label. It has a distinctive gold seal, as do two other unlabelled bottles in my collection. By coincidence one of these is a snake also but that one is coiled and raising it's head, python fashion. Does anyone know the maker?

At the right is the Christmas Hamms Bear that was sold by Chiisai Bin. They also had for sale another very similar version with a blue hat and currently have for sale a 'bartender' version - very expensive though.

The next photo shows three 15ml bottles from Guinness Plc. First up is an updated Guinness mini, filled, no doubt, with genuine Liffey water.





Next is Harp lager. The Harp name comes from the Guinness symbol, an Irish Harp. Guinness these days is an Anglo/Scots/Irish international conglomerate (it also owns Distillers the largest Scotch producer and is currently merging with Grand Metropolitan to become the world's largest drinks company) but it still likes to play up it's Irish heritage.

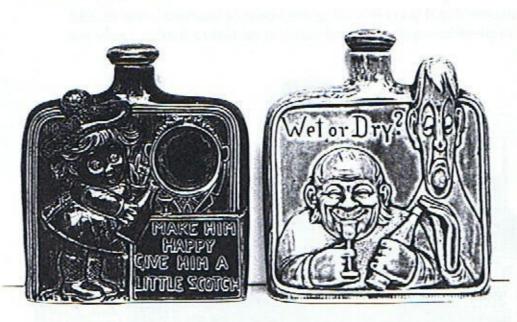
The next bottle is Smithwicks Ale. Smithwicks will not be familiar to most of you but I have drunk it by the gallon (we weren't metric in those days). It is by far the largest Irish beer (as opposed to stout) brewer and is, of course, owned by Guinness.

The above three bottles were found, complete with cardboard 'crate' in the Irish shop in the Daimaru

Shopping Centre in Melbourne. It shows that you always have to be on the lookout.

The final Guinness 'bottle' is not a bottle at all. It is a fully functional safety razor. There is even a soap stick that unscrews from the base. Don't ask me where I got it as it's on my bar for years.

Jackie and I had a trip in January where I looked in almost 30 antique/bric-a-brac shops. Every one had some bottles in but I found nothing I wanted. I was away working for two days later in the month and had a bit of time to spare so I called in three shops. In two I found good bottles, one for me and the following two which I have already on-sold to David Spaid.



These are giveaways. Both are the common flask shape and are in mint condition complete with stoppers.

The first is mid-brown. It has a small round mirror on it, a Scots girl holding a bottle and the words 'MAKE HIM HAPPY GIVE HIM A SCOTCH' It has a woodgrain type finish to the back and the number 5697.

The second is light brown. It has the words

'Wet or Dry?' and the head & shoulders of two men. One is chubby and jolly, undoubtedly because he is drinking and holding a bottle. The other is tall and thin and is refusing a drink. It has a woodgrain type finish to the back and the number 3454. This bottle is often known as Laurel & Hardy.

The place that had these had had 5 but someone had bought three of them. I understand from David Spaid that the first of them is unknown. It is certainly unusual to find them in NZ as they were undoubtedly given away in the US sometime between 1890 and 1920.

I hope you have enjoyed this Mixed Bag - anybody else feel like doing the same for the next miNiZ?

David Smith

### BOTTILIES IN TIHIE BILUIEGIRASS

If you are going to visit the Bourbon State of the World and your main emphasis when collecting miniature bottles is Bourbon, does it not stand to reason that you will indulge in your favourite pastime if given such an opportunity?, ie Buy Bottles!! So when my Daughter, Vivienne, advised that her wedding would be in Kentucky, U.S.A. in June last year, it seemed like a great opportunity to include our first holiday in Mainland America at the same time.

We had been to Hawaii and Canada in 1996 and although I did manage to buy some 15 bottles in Hawaii, it was nowhere near as many as I had hoped. Miniature bottles in Canada came a close second to hen's teeth and besides a few Canadian maple syrup miniatures, very few of anything else could be found in Vancouver, Victoria or en route to Calgary, except a few in the hotel room mini-bar. The reason, I was told in Canada, was that they were changing over to larger ( About 150ml?) bottles and phasing out the miniatures. Fact or fiction I do not know but suffice to say that the lack of minis was the only disappointing aspect of our holiday in Canada ( and the reason I did not do an article for miNiZ!!!)

So one has the right to assume that if you are visiting the home of Bourbon, one should be able to find Bourbon in plentiful supply and preferably in miniature bottles. I was not disappointed!!!



Thanks to Errol Brassett and his "connections" through the Internet, I had made contact with George Estes who is a minis collector in Kentucky and I had offered to bring him some two dozen New Zealand bottles if he could get for me some of those shown on his list of bottles. Via the "Net" He advised that he had arisen at 3.00am to go to purchase for me a special bottle, one of only 5000 bottles made by Maker's Mark and with a green top (usually red), bottled specially for the "Keeneland Association Charitable Giving



Program". Initially I envisioned a miniature but subsequent explanations indicated the size of this "special" as 1150ml!! and I had a feeling most of the miniatures I was taking to America would be used to swap for this bottle!!

George lives in Lexington on the eastern side of Kentucky and Vivienne lives in Henderson which is to the west. On the map it doesn't look far between the two!!! Little did I know!! I had checked addresses on my miniatures and written down the locations of the various Distilleries that I wished to visit, again the places seemed pretty close on the map!! One of the problems of living in New Zealand is that you are inclined to forget distances!!! My Son-in Law (to be), Tony, soon put me right and on the Monday, Tony and I set off for Lexington, almost right across Kentucky State and about the same distance as from Wellington to Taupo. One of the main differences is the calibre of Highway in the States where you have several lanes and long distances of fairly straight road that can be negotiated at 65 to 70 mph without all the twists, turns and oncoming traffic as in New Zealand.

First stop was Bardstown, the home of Heaven Hill Distillery, The Barton Distillery and not far away, Maker's Mark (see miNiZ #47). We stopped at the Heaven Hill Distillery but they didn't seem to be interested in showing us around (despite having a sign advertising their tours) so we headed off for Maker's Mark. It is quite a long way but well worth the drive through very pretty countryside but on a rather narrow road. When we arrived they were very friendly (in total contrast to Heaven Hill) and we were taken on the tour.

Daughter had told me that May/June is the season for thunderstorms and we had heard a few in the distance but while we were at Maker's Mark, I experience a real "doozey". The thunder was so loud and the hail so heavy that there was no way you could hear the



guide but it sure was spectacular!! We saw the process for the making of Maker' Mark bourbon and this included the actual bottling which, on the day we were there, was miniatures!! with their signature "red wax top".

We also purchased two 1150ml bottles with a special white top signed by Mr Bill Samuels, President of the company, and only available from the Distillery. We subsequently found this white-topped bottle available in Lexington but without the signature.

Back to Bardstown where we went to my first "Liquor Store" in Kentucky. It was a very small place but had quite a range of Miniatures, much to my glee and I immediately purchased about 12. I noticed that a lot of the bottles have become plastic. We also saw photos of the fire that had occurred recently at Heaven Hill and were given a description of it by the young attendant. It must have been some blaze as shown in these photos and if I remember correctly, the stream going through the property was alight for 5 miles!! As it was getting on to late afternoon we did not have time to go to the Barton distillery which is, I believe, also close to Bardstown.



In Lexington we contacted George Estes and he came down to the Motel "armed" with a couple of dozen miniatures and , of course, the "green topped" Maker's Mark. I asked him if he had a "white-topped" bottle and to my chagrin, he said he did but when I took one of ours out of the bag, he was quick to add that he did not have a signed one!! so was very happy to swap "green-topped" for the "white-topped". So was !!!!! He then took us to a very large liquor store where I was amazed

by the variety of bourbons available, many of which I had only seen in the Miniature. Again I gave into the temptation to buy!!! but in this case I also purchased a large bottle of "Pappy Van Winkle's Family Reserve 20 year old" bourbon, considered by "an independent panel" to be the best bourbon available in U.S.A.!!! (Having subsequently "sampled" the contents, I do not agree with them and in my humble opinion, Maker's Mark is by far the best I have ever tried.)

Next day Tony and I set out to return to Henderson but via a couple of other Distilleries, first to Wild Turkey just out from Versailles but where we timed it wrong for a tour. I did, however, really enjoy their display of "Wild Turkey" bottles, both miniature and considerably larger. There was a few for sale but at US\$45 each but I was able to contain myself. I was also conscious of their size and fragility and the problem of getting them home but I did buy one miniature of the Wild Turkey and Bear Cubs (No 9 on their listing). Then, after a lot of interesting navigation, we located, and I quote, "The Historic Labrot & Graham Distillery" and "No other distilling site in Kentucky can claim so long a distilling legacy". (What fascinates me is that the Labrot & Graham Distillery is not even included in the very informative book;-"The Book Of Bourbons", although the names are mentioned under a different distillery.) Here we were able to tour and watch the process, including the use of copper pot stills. Yours truly, on



the basis that I was from the furthest distance, was given the privilege of "banging in a bung" Unfortunately they don't make a miniature but I did bring home a large bottle,- it was ok but not quite up to their marketing blurb!!! After this we returned via Louisville, then southern Indiana and, although I am aware that there are a number of Distilleries in the Louisville area, time did not permit visits on this trip.

On returning to Henderson we were "distracted" by the Wedding so it was not until the following Monday that we continued the pursuit of our "real goals". We set off for the Jack Daniel Distillery in Lynchburg, Tennessee. My wife June came on this trip and I was not sure how she would find my propensity to stop at liquor stores any time I saw one. The tour of the Jack Daniel Distillery was really fascinating and the tour guide a real character with a proper "Southern Drawl". It is amazing how much bourbon is stored at this Distillery, all ageing in vast storehouses, each holding about 100,000 gallons and I believe there were 80 such buildings. Again no miniatures for sale but they did have a specially packed Bicentennial bottle which I purchased.



So on down Chattanooga and visits to several liquor stores, almost every one having a bottle that I had not seen and I had to be selective or I would have purchased a lot more. The following day we went into Alabama briefly, just to say we had been there but we did find a small liquor store

in a very small "town" and there I purchased a three mini "shooters";- B52, Yukon Jack "Mad Jack" and "Perma Frost". There were a number more but these appealed and I had actually purchased the Yukon "Mad Jack" and "Snake Bite" in ordinary bottles earlier.

By the time we came to leave Kentucky for a week in California, I had about 3 boxes of miniatures, along with 7 large bottles of Bourbon!! Believe me it was heavy and because most of it was in our cabin bags, I had to carry it personally and it is a very long way from the door of the



terminal to the check-in desk at Cincinnatti airport!! In fact, Vivienne actually said (I believe she was joking) as we were leaving that, judging by the number of miniatures I was taking with me home, the wedding was purely incidental to the main event, ie buying bottles in the Bluegrass state, the Home Of Bourbon!!



Well, we were not finished yet!!! to California where first obvious difference between the West coast and the Mid-west was the lack friendliness by the locals. I suppose it has a lot to do with number the Tourists in California so the locals ignore you!! Couldn't find any miniatures in San Deigo but the

day trip to Tijuana was very worthwhile if you want to collect Tequila bottles. I managed to accumulate 14 including another "shooter" and one which was obviously an El-cheapo with the "interesting" name of "Donkey-Piss" tequila!! There were probably a lot more but I was satisfied with those I collected and with the prices, most of which were no more than US\$1.

Finally in Los Angeles, I found a few minis (that I had not seen previously) in the liquor shop just down the road from the Hotel. but unlike Kentucky and Tennessee where the miniatures were reasonably priced at US\$1 to \$3, those in LA were \$3 plus. I did duplicate a couple of those not available in New Zealand, just to try the contents.

So it is lots of fun visiting the Distilleries in Kentucky, very "profitable" to your collection looking in on the liquor stores



and in the Mid-West they will go out of their way to be helpful to you. I have already planned a return in late 1998, not only to experience an American Thanksgiving and Christmas but in reality, to again seek out miniatures in the Mid-West and buy bottles in the Bluegrass.

Jan Butcher

# YHAT KIND OF "ANIMAL" ARE YOU?

We continue our series with years 3 & 4; The Year of The Tiger (this year for those who don't know) and next year's Year of The Rabbit.

### The Powerful Tiger



"Born leader" is the key word for the Tigers. They are always in the lead and are most likely the ones to cry out "Let's Go"! Noble and Fearless, Tigers are respected for their courage, even from those working against them.

Tiger people are daring fighters, they are capable of standing up to the better end for what they think is right. Although they could be selfish from time to time in the little things, they are capable of great generosity. Tigers are unpredictable, always tense. and like to be in a hurry.

Tiger people are difficult to resist, for they are magnetic characters and their natural air of authority confers a certain prestige on them. They are tempestuous yet calm, warm-hearted yet fearsome, courageous in the face of danger yet yielding and soft in mysterious, unexpected places.



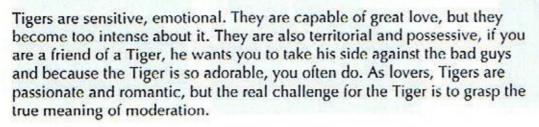


Tigers are very confident, perhaps too confident sometimes.

Although they love adventures, and are addicted to excitement it is better not to challenge a Tiger's confidence. They likes being obeyed and not the other way around.



Because Tigers are urgent people and always in a hurry to get things done right, they usually choose to operate alone. Tigers like to work, they are hard-working and dynamic. If you assign a task to a Tiger, the job will be undertaken and accomplished with enthusiasm and efficiency. Tigers make money, but they are not directly interested in money. Still, the Tiger needs not worry about money: just when he fears the money is gone, more seems to show up.





#### The Delicate Rabbit



The rabbit is one of the most delicate animals among all 12 animals. Rabbits are usually kind and sweet and of course, popular people. Nobody ignores them, for they are good company and know how to make the best of themselves.

A rabbit's home is always a beautiful one cause Rabbit people are famous for their artistic sense and good taste. They are also usually well-dressed. Go check out your Rabbit friend's closet, I bet you will find many expensive and beautiful clothing there.

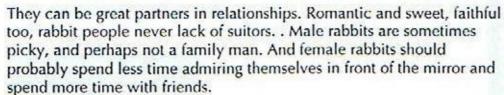
But even though they are popular and loved by their friends and family, rabbit people are also pessimistic. They are conservative and insecure, and that explains why most of the them don't like changes.



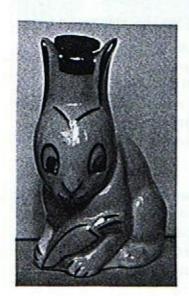


Calm as they are, it is not easy to provoke Rabbit people. They don't like to argue and enjoy quiet, peaceful lives. They are also sentimental and compassionate. Yes, and they cry easily too. They can be moved by personal problems you share with them. Therefore, if you work as a salesman for a living, you will have much better luck with rabbit people - Nine out of Ten Rabbit people will definitely buy your products!

Call them cautious or call them timid, rabbit people will undertake nothing before they have weighed the pros and cons from every angle. And that is probably why rabbit people are doing well in their work. And yet, unless they abandon their conservative nature, and become more aggressive, they will probably live a very normal, and average life.









The first picture shows the MAB Rabbit. The mini is white with a gold trim.

The next two are The Year of the Rabbit and The Year of the Tiger from Sam Seng in Hong Kong. They are part of a set of 12 Chinese years which was the inspiration for this series of articles. All will eventually be shown. The set is available from the Hong Kong Miniature Bottle Club and is very good value.

The Circus Tiger is from Ski Country and contains Ski Country Bourbon.

#### Sprechen Sie Deutsch? from Great Lakes Miniature Bottle Club

Well I don't either, but I was lucky enough to add a wide variety of miniatures from Germany, compliments of Linda, who took a trip to Berlin several years ago. She remembers sneaking them through customs because she wasn't sure if she was allowed to bring them back. I think there's some rule about total volume, but she brought back well over a 100 bottles, so she probably would have been pushing the limit. If anyone knows the rule(s) about bringing bottles into the states, share 'em with the rest of us in the next newsletter.

Here are few of the more "colorful" selections from my German collection. Linda didn't have an English translation for the Stichpumpuli, but said that the Hosenbrummer loosely translates to "Pants Rumbler", the Die Alte Hexe is the Black Forest Witch, and the last one, well you can pretty much figure it our on your own.



# COLLECTING

Fly to Nelson from home base Waimate, hire a rental car, visit every pub and second hand shop I come across for the next 10 days. That's the Mission.

Now the facts. I drove around the Golden Bay area, nice bronze bodies and not many minis - better head south. Buller, Greymouth, Hokitika, Ross. In Ross I Located a lady who collects everything including a few mini's and low and behold I spy an empty mini of Timaru Pale Ale, about 75 mls. Ten minutes later and twenty dollars lighter I own it. She told me that the only reason that I got it was because she had another identical bottle, except the second one still had its contents intact and was sealed with the original top. I tried to get her to sell it, but to no avail. I was told she may well swap it for ???

I lodged that comment in my brain cells and headed south again. Harihari, Haast, what brilliant sandfly country, as big as bumble bees. Wanaka, Queenstown, Te Anau, Milford Sound, Manapouri and deep into South Westland. Blow the bumble bees, then home. I only managed to buy 26 minis of whisky and one empty bottle of beer. Not bad, but not good, for 2,500 kms and a total of 86 pubs and second hand shops.

Two weeks later I received a visit from Alan Popham from Otago and we both headed for Timaru. Alan bought a few minis and then we found a pub that had been sold. I purchased two whisky jugs and a Buchanans Black and White Whisky mirror, circa 1950's for \$30. I won't repeat what Alan Popham called me because it wasn't nice. Next a phone call to Ross and a deal was struck, and a date set. Not taking any risks with couriers I had an early start on Friday 6th February for my day excursion to Ross and back. Three tank loads of petrol at \$96 a hit, who said Falcons aren't economical, and a sore burn, but I am now the proud owner of one full bottle of Timaru Pale Ale about 75mls, plus one empty. I have had them dated circa 1926.

Last week I was up at Geraldine and then went into McKenzie County, home of R.C.B. I visited a second hand shop and they had a Buchanans Black and White Mirror identical to the one now in Ross for the princely sum of \$475! I nearly had a coronorary on the spot. Once my breathing became more regulated I limped from the shop and fell into the car. After 10 minutes I drove slowly away thinking what a price I had paid for a bottle of pale ale. Where's the justice!

On my arrival home, still feeling sick in the stomach, I found a note taped to my back door (contact the second hand shop in Waimate, urgent). Back in the car and down there I go. "Gary, do you want to buy 10 mini bottles of beer?" Well I must admit the bottom of my eyes nearly hit the top of my brain when I saw what they were -

4 x Guinness; 1 x Lion Draft Ale; 1 x Crown Largered Ale; 1 x Guinness (Mayflour 1957); 1 x Imperial Pale Ale; 1 x Red Band Pale Ale and 1 x Speights XXX Gold Medal Ale (with the label on upside down!)(That's interesting - I had one the same and carefully took it off and put it back the right way up - Editor)

How much? I waited with baited breath, would I need a bank loan? The answer came slowly, \$5.00 each. SOLD I Said. As I drove home for the second time that day I was still wondering if there's any justice in this mini collecting.

Last night Alan Popham rang me and I was telling him this little story. I won't tell you his reply because it wasn't very nice. I also told him that I was thinking about heading into Otago, Alan's home territory, at Easter. His reply to this was not nice either, but I can't do the North Island in four days so I have no choice.

Who said collecting stamps was more fun, "not me!"

I will keep you informed on my Easter expedition into Popham Country.

Happy Bottle Hunting

Garry Williams

# Drunkards, Golems and Jugs

I know that many members of Port Nicholson Miniature Bottle Club took up the offer in the last miNiZ and bought the three Diana and six Irish Whiskey Jugs. Some of you will know that the Czech Republic has produced a number of other ceramics minis, including 17 other mini jugs. For those that have not seen the other bottles, I am going to introduce you this interesting series.

The first bottles were the series called "Drunkards' Heads" (shown to the right) and "Harem" (shown which below) appeared in 1993 (shown in MiNiZ, N°3, Volume March 1994). There were eight figurines, each in 4 colours, blue, rusty brown, dark brown Nowadays, only the rusty brown variation is

available.

The Drunkards Heads contain Apricot Whisky, Bross Whisky, Gin Extra Fine, Hill's Whisky & Rum Sandokan.

The Harem are called & contain: Favourite girl - Hill's Whisky; Eunuch - Rum Sandokan & Eunuch - Bross Whisky

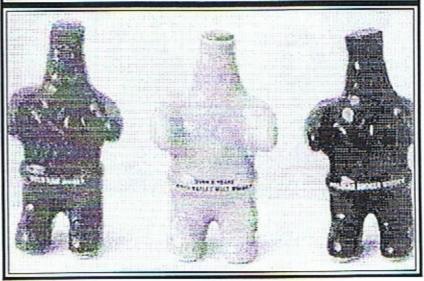
A further series, called "Golems" was issued in 1995. According to an old legend from Prague Jewish mysticism, a Golem was a man made out of clay that was brought into life by Rabbi Jehuda saying magic words and putting a sorcerous thing, a Shem, into his mouth.

The seven-piece-series was made in seven colours that depict the different colours of ground: rusty brown, light and deep gray, deep green, beige, light brown and white.

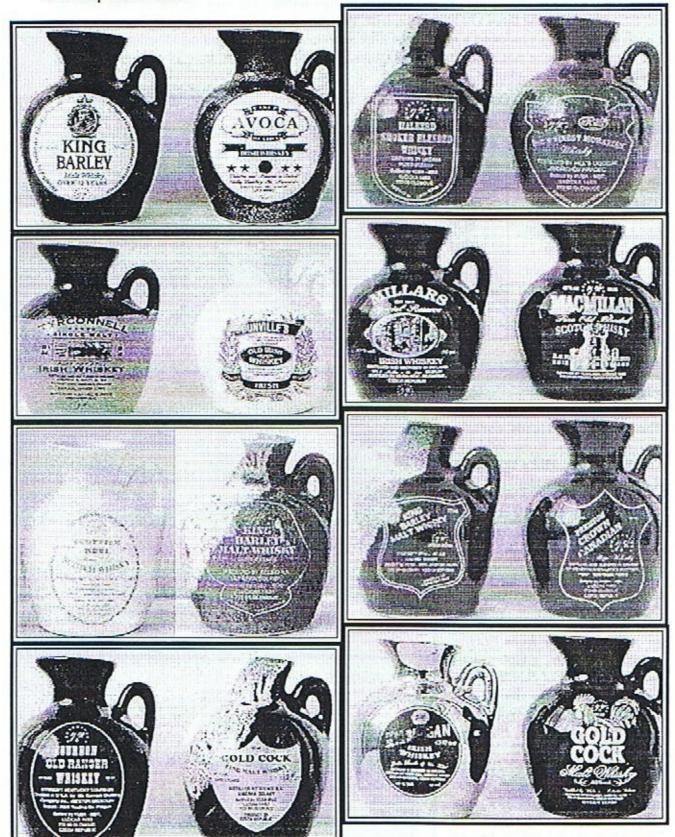
The seven Golems contain seven







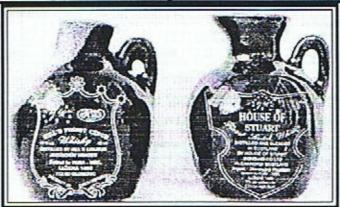
kinds of whisky produced in the Czech Republic: Gold Cock Fine Malt Whisky Over 3 Years (deep-gray), Gold King Ancient Style Rye Whisky (rusty-brown), Halberd Smoker Whisky (green), Hill's Finest Czech Whisky (light-brown), Hill's Finest Moravian Whisky (beige), King Barley Malt Whisky Over 4 Years (white), King Barley Malt Whisky Over 6 Years (light-gray). As you may be able to see in the picture, the inscriptions on the Golems' belts show the whisky name. Labels can be found on both feet. All bottles are numbered and the count will reach up to 1000 pieces of each.



Irish Whiskey (deep-green & white), Bourbon Old Ranger Whiskey (brown), Dunville's Old Irish Whiskey (white), Fraser McDonald's Rare Old Scotch Whisky (deep-green), Gold Cock Fine Malt Whisky Over 3 Years (brown & white), Gold Cock Fine Malt Whisky Over 3 Years (gold), Gold Cock Malt Whisky Over 6 Years (black), Gold King Ancient Style Rye Whisky 70% Proof (gold), Halberd Smoker Blended Whisky (green & white), Hill's Finest Czech Whisky (blue & white), Hill's Finest Moravian Whisky (green), House of Stuart Finest Scotch Whisky (blue), Kilbeggan Irish Whiskey (silver), King Barley Malt Whisky Over 4 Years (gray & white), King Barley Malt Whisky Over 12 Years (brown & white), MacMillan Fine Old Blended Scotch Whisky (black), Millars Irish Whiskey (black), Premium Crown Canadian Rye Whisky (rusty-brown), Scottish Reel Rare Old Scotch Whisky (white), Tyrconnell Single Malt Irish Whiskey (bright-green & rusty-brown).







The first series of 10 appeared in 1996 and the second series comprising a further 12 bottles were produced during the summer of 1997. They differ in colour and some of them slightly vary in shape as well as they have an oval 'shield' jutting out at the front on which is placed the label. The labels are miscellaneous, from round ones to peculiar shapes of historic emblems.

As you saw in miNiZ last time, a new Lady Diana Commemorative Set has just been made. It consists of a dark brown, a white and a blue jug. The first two of them are filled with whisky (KING BARLEY and GOLD COCK over 12 years) and the blue jug contains O'BRIENS IRISH COUNTRY CREAM. There is a different portrait of Princess Diana on the front of each jug type. The label on the back reads: "Goodbye Diana, we will always keep you in our hearts".

A new LOCKE'S IRISH WHISKEY jug (also shown in the last miNiZ) is the latest addition to the range.

All Czech ceramic mini bottles contain 50 ml and are plugged with corks. The series Golems and Golden Jugs were awarded the prize "The nicest novelties of the year 1995 outside Germany" by the German Mini Bottle Club. In July 1997 an Internet Czech Ceramic Mini Bottle Home Page with pictures of all Czech ceramics came into existence. You can find it at http://skunk.sh.cvut.cz/~jk/mini/welcome.htm. You are welcome to call on it...

### Jaroslav Kuba & David Smith

# Bacchus, I have sinned...

Wine education is a good thing. Australian Journalist Richard Glover remembers why.

Here's a confession about those of us on the Mentelle Notes mailing list: we all started out as idiots about wine. Well, most of us anyway.

Looking back, the period between my 15th and my 25th birthday was a headlong attempt to destroy my palate. If I'd have kept tasting notes, the whole period could have been described as a "nuclear attack on the back palate, with collateral damage to the front and middle."

The level of ignorance was huge. Talk to me about cold climate wines, and I'd have thought you were advocating some sort of gluwein. Take me to a French restaurant, and I'd point to the menu and order something, which when translated, meant "Service Not Included."

I've mentioned this dark past to a few others now passionate about wine, and they all make the same confession. Among all, there is much headshaking and bewilderment at what we once drank.

We want our youths back. And not simply so we can make wiser choices about clothes, hair style and Billy Joel. We want those nights of tasting back.

As Len Evans has depressingly noted, there are a finite number of wine-drinking nights in one's life. Which means a finite number of bottles. Every stinker is a good one you've missed out on forever.

Can't we have back that decade we wasted scoffing flagon red? Or those nights, at 16 and 17, when we drank Smirnoff straight from the hip flask, and thought ourselves highly sophisticated. Right up to the point at which we collapsed into our parents' rose bushes.

Do the Gods of wine accept confession, along the Catholic model? Could I call in on Bacchus, sit humbly behind the screen, and admit all my transgressions against the world of wine?

I would begin with my worst offence - the one committed at the University dinners of the late 70s, at which we students would work as waiters. The wine was fairly poor early in the evening - the customers' choice of carafe white or red.

But how much worse, late in the night when we waiters would get sick of trundling around with half empty carafes of both colours, and would retire to the kitchen, there to produce our late night masterpiece: \*University Rosé.

It was a pungent drop - especially on those nights when a craze for 'Fluffy Ducks' or 'Blue Lagoons' would grip our customers, and the dregs of these would also find their way into the mix.

A sommelier who happened to wander in might wonder why the 'University Rose' that night was so coloured, so strongly red.

Or so strongly, white. Or indeed why it had a particular tinge of blue.

Or the foaming head. Oh, Bacchus,

I am sorry. Or what of the craze for port, which hit the campus about two years later. We bought it in large plastic bags, a syndicate going in together, and would transfer it into bottles on the kitchen table - at least half the volume

during the bottling process. How do we have any palates left? How did we develop any appreciation

"There are a finite number of wine-drinking nights in one's life....

My personal breakthrough came, as often happens, through a member of the family - one of my wife's uncles, a wine lover whose immediate family didn't share his enthusiasm.

The result was a cellar full of terrific wine, and no one to drink them. Stepping manfully - and hastily into the breach: yours truly.

We shared some lovely bottles, the two of us, sitting under his house, with a corkscrew and some tasting glasses, him describing the taste and helping me to understand its subtleties.

But the best day came when I asked about wine that had gone offwhat it tasted like; how to identify different problems. And my uncle's eyes lit up.

He had crates of the stuff. His wife's lack of interest in wine meant that for 30 years he had consistently overstocked; consistently bought 12 bottles when 10 would have done. His cellar was full of wine that had gone off; wine for which he could find no use.

Until now.

We strode round the cellar, the two of us, with Uncle John gleefully reaching into dark corners, and whipping the cork out of bottles.

Taste this one son, by now this should be a real shocker." And then he'd explain why - teaching me to differentiate between all the faults that wine is heir to.



Upstairs my wife took tea with her auntie, both listening to our progress beneath the house - choking and laughing and spitting and shouting in taste-bud pain.

What was happening that day? I was drinking up my uncle's enthusiasm, along with his bad wine, and starting to learn about how to use the palate. I was being ushered into that wonderful and rich world beyond University Rosé.

And maybe something else. As I sipped yet another bottle of long-gone riesling, grimacing against the taste, I wondered if Bacchus had finally got his revenge.

Richard Glover can be heard on Sydney ABC Radio and read regularly in the Sydney Morning Herald. His cellar is modestly under-stocked.



The only magazine dedicated to collecting miniature Published bi-monthly it is available in New Zealand on subscription. To save messing with foreign exchange payment can be made locally. Cost is US\$30 (currently NZ\$51.70) Make cheques payable to David Spaid and send to the club at P.O. Box 384, Wellington. We will do the rest.





How do you get transparent ice? Ice from my freezer always contains bubbles. I've used filtered and boiled water but the ice is never like that seen in ads for Scotch

Ice made in domestic freezers is inevitably cloudy because of the dissolved air that tap water contains (around 0.003 per cent by weight). As the water in the ice trays drops below freezing point, crystals form around the edges of the compartments. These are pure ice and they contain very little air because the solubility of air in ice is very low and the liquid left behind can still hold it in solution.

Once the concentration of air in the liquid reaches 0.0038 per cent by weight and the temperature has dropped to -0.0024C, the liquid can contain no more air and a new reaction begins. As the water freezes the air is forced out of solution. The natural state of air at the temperature and pressure involved here is a gas, so it forms bubbles in the ice.

Commercial ice machines produce attractive, clear ice by passing a constant stream of water past freezing metal fingers, or over freezing metal trays. This freezes out a fraction of the water while the rest of it is discarded before the concentration of air gets too high. When the ice is thick enough the metal fingers or tray are warmed to release their crystal clear ice that is good enough to film.



Water has its highest density at around 4C. Below that the water gets less dense as it approaches freezing point.

Air bubbles form in the ice when the cooling of the water is too rapid, which causes one part of the water to be at a different temperature to other parts. Ice is usually formed at the top of the water first because the warmer and denser water sinks beneath the ice layer that begins to form there.

Additionally, the top layer is usually the part that is in contact with the cold environment. This is similar to what happens in a frozen lake. The various expansion rates of different parts of the water will inevitably create air bubbles that cannot escape because of the ice sheet above.

To avoid ice bubbles, the trick is to cool the water very slowly so that there is no large temperature gradient which can cause widely different expansion. Cooling it slowly also allows air to have sufficient time to move through the liquid and evaporate before it is trapped by the solid ice.

# The World in Miniatures

## **JORDAN**

Continuing with articles about miniature bottles from foreign countries, this time I am talking about mini bottles from Jordan.

Jordan is one of the few Arab countries which produces miniature bottles. I am not sure how they get around the strict Muslim laws, but they have a number of fantastic mini's of all types. What I wanted to do with this article, is to show several different types of bottles which are available in Jordan.

The first mini is GOLF CLUB special blend whisky. This bottle is square (like the Johnnie Walker bottles), and has an attractive Red, Gold & Black foil label.

The next miniature bottle is *LABEL* 5 blended whiskey. This is another foil label which is Black, White & Gold, with some Blue and Red in the crest. This mini also comes in a flat rectangular shaped bottle with the same label.

The next picture is PARKER special whisky. It also is square (like the Johnnie Walker bottles), and has a Burgundy colored foil label with White & Gold print. The next bottle is BLACK JACK BJ special blend whisky. The bottle shape is like a Johnnie Walker, but this mini has a Black, Gold, & Burgundy foil label depicting a man setting on a chair.

The next bottle is HADDAD Gold Rum. This is a flat bottle with a fantastic looking label. To bad this is not in color because the label depicts a Caribbean scene with a lot of Orange, Green & Blue colors.

The last bottle is the only mini which looks like it came from Jordan. It is ARAK HADDAD Liqueur. The label is White with Gold & Black print, and has a Gold & Green vine around the edge with Red grapes.

Hope you enjoyed this article. I will have a different country next time. Jim Crawford



# A SHORT HISTORY OF BOLS ROYAL DISTILLERIES

This article is from a Dutch lady, Saskia's, personal page on the Internet. It can be found at: http://homepage.cistron.nl/~chelcni/bolshist.htm

Bols have produced literally hundreds of different miniatures over the years, the photograph is of three of the best that were ever made. They depict national icons of the United States, Great Britain and France.

It all started in the year 1575, when Lucas Bols founded his company in what were then the outskirts of Amsterdam. He had, probably also in Belgium and Germany, learned the difficult craft of distilling. Beside a clear brook he built a wooden shed to store the ingredients and in the open air he erected a copper pot still. This was the beginning of a whole range of spirits that have made the name Bols famous around the world.

It is the beginning of the "Golden Age". Dutch seafaring merchants have started to return from their far travels with fragrant spices and flavourings. And many of these spices and flavourings were used by Lucas Bols to create his masterpieces. There was cinnamon from Asia, orange-blossom and citrus fruits from the Mediterranean and Caribbean, cloves from Africa, vanilla beans from Tahiti, Curacao peels from the Caribbean and later from Spain, rose-oil from Bulgaria and coffee from Colombo. As Amsterdam was the centre of the spice trade, Lucas and his descendants had the first pick and from the choice ingredients thus obtained they composed wonderful liqueurs, and later Genevers, that quickly became popular in many corners of the world. Some of these early liqueurs such as Creme de Cièl (Blue Cura&ccedilao), Creme de Violette (Parfait Amour) and Bride's Tears (Gold Liqueur) are still around today and as popular as ever.

Around 1612 Amsterdam had already grown to such an extent that Lucas Bols' little shed ('t Lootsie) was now situated inside the walls. Lucas' son. Jan Jacob Bols, who ran the company by that time, put up a stout stone structure in place the wooden shed. But the name remained " 't Lootsje" and the building can still be on Rozengracht (Rose Canal).



Until 1816 the distilleries remained in the hands of the family and the secret and successful recipes were passed on from father to son. But in that year the direct family line died out and the company was sold, on the strict condition that the name Bols would always be associated with it. It is from that time that the company has called itself "The heirs of Lucas Bols" (Erven Lucas Bols).

For many years after that "'t Lootsje" was mirrored in the still dreamy waters of the Rose Canal, until is was filled in 1889 and the spices and flavourings had to be transported over land. Year after year Bols sold more and more of its liqueurs and genevers until finally in the 1960's further expansion in Amsterdam became impossible and the company had to move to Nieuw-Vennep, a village just south of Amsterdam. At the festive opening of the new premises by H.R.H. Prince Bernhard of The Netherlands in 1970, Bols was awarded the predicate "Royal" by Her Majesty Queen Juliana.

Today Bols is a much different concern from its humble beginnings at the end of the sixteenth century. After its merger with Dutch based foodgroup Wessanen in 1993 Royal BolsWessanen is an international corporation with operating companies in Europe and The Americas. It markets a wide range of food and beverage products, including dairy and breakfast products, natural foods, frozen and chilled foods, spirits, aperitifs and wines and non-alcoholic drinks.

That Lucas Bols understood that growing popularity is based on constant quality becomes evident in the family's coat of arms, which bears the Latin motto 'Semper Idem'; 'always the same'. To the master distiller of today this means that he is committed to composing liqueurs, genevers and other spirits of the same high quality every day. His craftsmanship is now backed up by a system of strict quality controls, both technical and organoleptic.

But one thing never changed. For Lucas Bols did more than found a company which was to become a world wide operation; he started a tradition of quality. Summed up in words which have become the company's guiding principle: "Do not mutilate nature. Guide her to perfection."

#### Saskia

# Date, Time & Place of Meetings

15th March BBQ LUNCH 22<sup>nd</sup> March MEETING 19th April MEETING 16th May POT LUCK & SWAPMEET 23rd May MEETING POT LUCK & SWAPMEET 21<sup>st</sup> June 19th July MEETING 25th July MEETING 15th August POT LUCK & SWAPMEET 20th September POT LUCK & SWAPMEET 3<sup>rd</sup> October MEETING 18th October MEETING 14th November POT LUCK & SWAPMEET 12th or 19th Dec. CHRISTMAS MEAL

SUNDAY 12 Noon at Chin's, 29 Norton Park Ave., Fairfield, Lower Hutt SATURDAY 2.00pm at the Mellish's, 66 Rudds Road, Christchurch SUNDAY 2.00pm Ryder's, 20 Prospect Terrace, Johnsonville.

SATURDAY 6.30pm at the Butcher's, 60 Discovery Drive, Whitby SATURDAY 2.00pm at the Fretwell's, 61 Port Hills Road, Christchurch SUNDAY 12 Noon at Hewitson's, 21 Terry Crescent, Palmerston North SUNDAY Carvey's, 47 Donovan Road, Paraparaumu Beach SATURDAY 2.00pm at the Sutton's, No2 RD, Okuku, RD4, Rangiora SATURDAY 6.30pm at Colin Kilpatrick's, 6 St. Edmund Crescent, Tawa SUNDAY 12 Noon at Lynch's, 51 Maxwell Avenue, Wanganui SATURDAY 2.00pm at the Harvey's, 44 Basingstoke Road, Christchurch SUNDAY Brassett's, 13 Peckham Grove, Tawa SATURDAY 6.30pm at Smith's, 86 Rawhiti Road, Pukerua Bay SATURDAY 7.00pm Venue to be decided

What about some meetings up north? Any volunteers?

#### Change of Address

Gary Williams, Hunter Hills Lodge, Hillary Street, Waimate

Telephone: (03) 689 6309

# Welcome New Members

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Fric Linnell

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(250) 456 7398

Ross Walker

P.O. Box 738, Christchurch

(03) 313 6853



# New Committee

(VERY like the old Committee!)

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\* No.1 Sub-Editor is responsible for "Buy, Sell & Swap" and "What's New."

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Club Web Pages:

http://www.voyager.co.nz/~errolb2/index.htm

http://www.voyager.co.nz/~dsmith/index.htm

Miniature Bottle Collector Web Page: http://www.bottlecollecting.com/

<sup>\*</sup> David Smith has committed to do the miNiZ Editor's job for the next two editions but we still need a permanent Editor. Volunteers please form an orderly queue!

<sup>\*</sup> No.2 Sub-Editor is responsible for phoning / faxing / E-mailing and generally chasing members up for articles - you have been warned! VP South Island, Robin Mellish, has offered to help with this also.

# COCKTAJES AT

Legend has it that in 1776, Betsy Flanagan invented the American "Cocktail" in her bar in Elmsford New York, which was decorated with brightly coloured tail feathers of cockerels. She had the notion of adding a cock's tail feather as a stirrer to ber drinks, hence the name cocktail was born

Outrageously
popular in the
roaring twenties,
but suffering a
setback during the
war years the
cocktail is now alive
and well.



#### FRENCH "75

15mls Gordons 15mls Lemon Juice Dash Sugar Syrup French Champagne

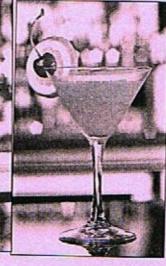
Shake and strain into ice filled hi ball. Top with Champagne. Pour into sugar rimmed glass.



#### **BOARD WALK SLING**

30mls Tanqueray 15mls Cherry Brandy 15mls Cointreau 15mls Orange Juice 15mls Pineapple Juice 15mls Lime Juice Benedictine Float

Shake and strain except Benedictine. Fill glass with ice, float Benedictine. Garnish with sprigs of mint.



#### CIN CIN SLIPPER

30mls Smirnoff Black Label 15mls Midori 30mls Lemon Juice

Shake and strain into martini glass. Green cherry garnish.



#### SABRATINI

45mls Absolut 15mls Sabara

Stir over ice, strain into martini glass. Jaffa garnish.



#### THE BUS STOP

30mls Finlandia 15mls Advocaat Dash Galliano Dash Lemon Juice Dash Orange Juice

Shake and serve over crushed ice. Garnish with slice of orange.



#### CHOCOLATE MARTINI

30mls Bombay Sapphire 30mls White Creme de Cacao

Stir over ice, strain into martini glass. Chocolate cherry garnish.