

AUTUMN 1999

ISSUE 53

Auckland
New Plymouth
Gisborne
New Zealand
Patea
Wellington
Greymouth
Christchurch
Dunedin
Invergargill

Mi NiZ

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PORT NICHOLSON MINIATURE BOTTLE



Editorial Page

It has become almost a tradition for the miNiZ editorial to start off with an apology for the late and occasional nature of the magazine. This edition, unfortunately is no exception. In offering an apology, however, I think that the current issue has indeed been worth waiting for.

This issue sees a number of changes and quite a few "experiments", which if they work will become a regular (but not automatic) feature of future miNiZ.

Firstly the format: this issue of miNiZ has been produced entirely on computer, allowing a tighter control over layout and print quality. It had been hoped to produce a full colour magazine to show off the mini's featured in the articles to their best advantage and to do justice to David Smith's legs !!, (see *Ambassadorial tales*), however the reproduction costs involved meant that this was not a viable option. Anyone got a newsletter sponsor up their sleeve ?

For the first time, miNiZ is also being published on the Club's Internet Web-site in full as a downloadable PDF (Portable Document Format) file. Selected articles have previously been placed on the site as text only documents, however this entire issue is available in colour and inclusive of graphics. We hope to use this means to get the magazine out to our Internet savvy members in a more timely way in the future and to provide "added value" for those members. Following the example of the on-line version of The Miniature Bottle Collector magazine, in the future we intend placing some of the graphics in future issues on the site as "teasers" and restricting in some way access to the full version of the magazine.

Next the graphics themselves, as the magazine has been produced totally by computer and because we now have several "electronic" contributors as well as access to document and high quality graphic scanners the graphics contained in the various articles are able to be brought up sharper and clearer for your viewing pleasure.

Another hardy annual in miNiZ has become the editors plea for content, and once again this issue is no exception. As you will note from the "by-lines" the spread of input has once again been pretty thin. Note also the type of content, particularly the items relating to member's (and non-members !, thanks Rusty) collections. We all have something in our collection that we are particularly proud of or something we are certain no-one else has (the oo-ah exhibit), or even something we would like to know more about (check out the cloisonné jugs). Send them all in, remember the Club is nothing without each of you participating in it !

Anyway, I hope you all enjoy reading this issue and the editorial team would welcome your feedback (almost as much as we would enjoy articles from you !).

Cover Bottles

The cover bottles this time round are from my collection and were obtained from *La Maison du Whisky* in Paris. No I didn't get to pick them up personally !

The five shown plus a sixth released after the picture was taken recognise the different Whisky producing areas of Scotland. All are single malts and the bottles represent Campbeltown (with a graphic of the Mull of Kintyre), the Highlands (with a highland glen), the Lowlands (with flowering heather), Speyside (with a river scene), Islay (with a raw coastal scene) and the Western Isles (not pictured, with a windswept lighthouse). Each label has a map of Scotland showing the location of the area represented and a description (in French) of both the region and the Whisky contained in the bottle. All in all a very nice set to have.

Due to postal restrictions *La Maison du Whisky* is unwilling to send bottles abroad, however the Club is attempting to arrange something through its sister club in Paris to obtain a few sets for club stock.

Errol Brassett

Ambassadorial Tales:

For those members that are not aware, our immediate past president of some 14 years is spending 1999 and the first month of the new millenium travelling in North America. He is however, keeping in touch on a regular basis via email and through a journal which he is publishing through our club website. For those who are interested and who do not have internet access, copies of David's journal are available from me on request.

The title of this piece, which will appear in each of the magazines published during David's peregrination arises from the 1999 Annual General Meeting at which, during the process of electing a new committee, a position of "Roving Ambassador" was created and bestowed on David.

Bottle collecting will be a significant part of David's journey, both on his own behalf and that of the club.

No doubt, as he travels around he will attempt to at least contact as many US & Canadian members as he can in passing. Please make him welcome if he turns up in your town seeking "local knowledge" in his alchophialic search.

As the reports of his adventures (and mis-adventures) as he makes his way across the continent filter back we will publish updates in each magazine (the Nevada leg of the trip may have to be heavily censored as David attempts to fill the gaps in his collection of brothel ceramics !!).

It had been my intention to precis David's journal for this piece myself, but he has instead provided a mini focussed version of it himself. Without further ado, read on !!

Journey for a Year

All of you will know that I have taken a year off work to travel. I am keeping a diary and each month I am posting a sort of digital diary on my web site. If you wish to be able to access this please E-mail me at my temporary US E-mail address, minizgnetzero.net and I will tell you how to access it. Naturally I am spending part of my time mini hunting and this is what I will concentrate on in this article, although the early part details the 1999 Patea Weekend.

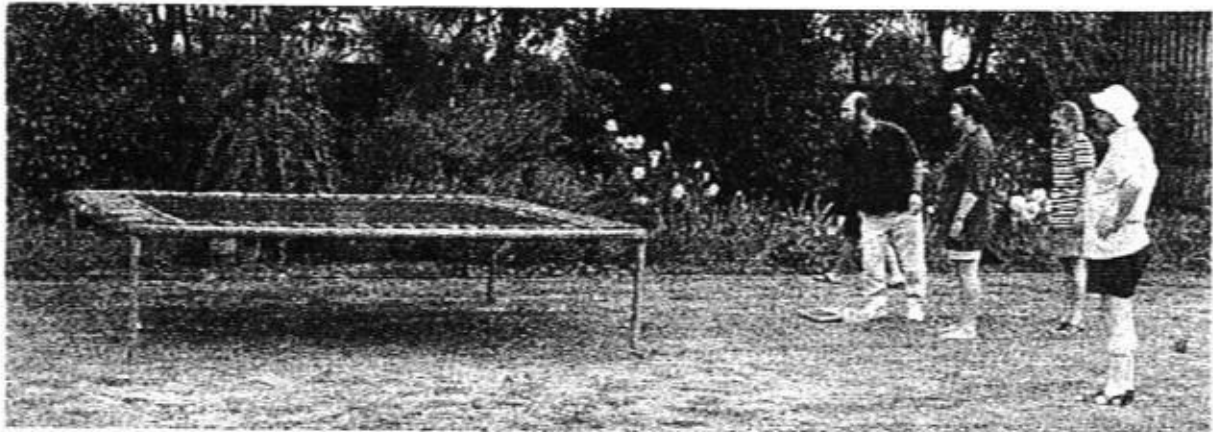
My year started off uneventfully on Friday 19th February. I got some last minute washing done, washed dishes, packed away the last of my personal things which I was leaving behind and then locked myself out of the house!

I was taking some scraps to the compost heap when the door blew shut behind me. What makes it worse is that I was only wearing a pair of shorts. I checked all the windows and doors but they were locked. First stop was next door but one to get the key that Sue keeps for just such an emergency, but she was out. By this time I was beginning to get a bit cold so I tried our other neighbours - all were out.

Plan B, break window. I had a good look around and decided which one was best but before I did so I decided to try Sue again. Having had no luck I was on my way back home when I met up with another lady I know, Julie. She had a laugh at my expense, as did the lady who turned up to read the electricity meter. Julie did however know where Sue probably was and went to fetch her. Sue also had a good laugh at my expense but did let me in.

At lunchtime I set off for Patea, calling in at most of the places that sell minis along the way. I managed to pick up a few for trading in the US. Most of the crowd that was staying for the weekend arrived on the Friday evening. It was the first time that all but myself had seen the new building that Ron had put on the property and all were impressed. The building was bought from the army at Waiouru, transported in two sections and set-up on a pole foundation. Ron then turned it into an equipment room, lecture room, dive shop and office and backpackers accommodation. He nearly killed himself in the process when he fell 40

feet from the roof but he is recovering very well. The new building also meant that Dianne could expand her cabinets having got all the diving gear out of the garage.



Becky Brassett (obscured), Errol Brassett, Dianne Ryder, Pam Fowler and Robin Mellish - Petanque finalists

Saturday morning we had a Petanque tournament with the finalists playing off at Trampoline Petanque, the object of which was just to get a boule to stay on the trampoline. This is FAR harder than it looks and caused a lot of laughs. Winner was Errol Brassett who won an MBC Gold Rooster. Saturday afternoon we had a car treasure hunt. I had set this up whilst working in the area in January. I was careful to keep it considerably shorter than in 1998 and this time it went down well. Winner was Ron & Di Opie and a Japanese teacher they have staying with them. They won a ceramic mini of the state of Wisconsin.

Mealtimes were, as usual, of the fattening type. Dianne Ryder was not very pleased when, having just said that she greatly enjoyed the stew I made, was told that she had just eaten the hare I shot on the weekend in 1998. Saturday evening was what has now become our traditional spitroast, this time a hogget (lamb). Sunday morning brought morning tea at Pam Fowler's place and many members took the opportunity to view and buy some of the club stock.

The usual couple of guns turned up but we did far more damage to water filled Coke cans than we did to the local wildlife. I only saw one rabbit (missed the little b---r) and Ian Butcher four, although at least he did pot one of them. We also went out to try to shoot a ram that had gone wild in the gully at the edge of the farm but we saw no sign of it. Going up and down the gully made it plain to Ian and myself how un-fit we are!

The AGM on Sunday afternoon was uneventful. When the others realised I would not be on the committee for the first time in 18 years they promptly created a new position of Roving Ambassador. Plenty of bottles changed hands and a good time was had by all.

Next stop the UK. I had my first day to myself and as I was on my way north I went to Warwick where I found a number of large bric-a-brac type antique shops. I saw dozens of minis, mainly over priced, but did buy 4 micros. There were more bric-a-brac shops in Stratford and I picked up a small ceramic for only two pounds. The following day I went to the Bass brewing museum at Burton-on-Trent, which is well worth the visit even if I did not find any minis.

I stayed with friends in York and spent the next morning looking around the city and hunting for minis in the antique shops. Unexpectedly I found some micro beers in a gift shop and bought four but was unsure whether I had another one of them. I therefore went back to my friend's house for the my laptop computer. Prior to the trip, using a borrowed digital camera, I had photographed all my micros. I was able to go back to the shop and, much to the amazement of the shopkeeper, set the computer up on the counter and compare the bottles. I bought four more.

The beginning of March saw me stopping with a number of friends and looking for minis wherever possible. I stopped for a couple of nights with member and friend, David Maund and bought a few bottles off him. David at one time had the world's largest collection but has considerably slimmed it down in recent years. He has an unbeatable collection of Bells Bells, both large and small. After leaving David I went to an

antiques fair in Exeter - 500 tables. There were a number of ceramics and micros but they were mainly over priced. I did buy one Gold Seal micro, a micro lighter and a moving picture Drioli. I got talking to the dealer who sold me the Gold Seal and we increased each others knowledge of this set. There are 280 in total and they were made from 1948-1959: What we call Gold Seal is actually two sets by different manufacturers. I saw a Rynbende Poodle in pale brown but did not buy it as the top was white. Later in the trip I came across the same bottle in an antique shop and was again tempted but decided not to buy it.

In Bude, Cornwall I picked up three jugs in an off-license. They had in excess of 100 minis for sale, including a number of ceramics, but many were very dear. They wanted Stg. 16.99 (\$52) for a plain red golf bag. Wednesday is antiques day at Barnstaple (Devon) market. There were quite a few minis on sale, mainly ceramics, but none that I wanted. There was another antiques fair on at Newton Abbott racecourse, but I found nothing. At Topsham, south of Exeter, there is a large antique warehouse and other shops. I found a number of bottles but again bought nothing because of the prices.

And so to the US. I was invited to stop for a few days with member and acquaintance, Nancy Clayton, whilst I bought my motor home. A few days turned into two and a half weeks. There is a saying that fish and house guests begin to stink after three days but that would appear not to include me as we have become firm Friends (and only that!).

I bought a 30' motor home and a Honda Civic to tow behind it (see next page). Nancy joined me on a test run down to Palm Springs at Easter. Whilst there I bought a Wild Turkey ceramic in a junk shop. Back in LA, Nancy took me to a liquor store with lots of minis where I bought 6 NZ, yes NZ, minis. These are Portion Pack shot glass bottles. Only 6 of the 10 have been imported into the US. They differ from the NZ versions in that they have the US importer's name on and the US Government health warning.



The "Rig"

Whilst in LA I bought a digital scanner for negatives and slides. It produces a very high quality image and hopefully that will show in the photos on this and other future articles.

All good things must come to an end and eventually I set off for St. Louis. First stop however was Las Vegas. Nancy had told me about a collection for sale by late member Barry Kaplan's widow. I phoned her up from LA and she asked for 35 cents each for 835 (there turned out to be only 58 1) beers and sodas. I agreed to buy them sight unseen. I was a little disappointed in what I saw as 3/4 of them were Argentinean sodas and cans, mainly 6 of each. I reasoned that at 35 cents each I could not loose, and I was right. I sold most of the Argentinean bottles and cans to Bottle Collectors Liquor Store in Las Vegas; and almost got my money back: When I sorted through them I found a set of Lowebrau cans. These are IMPOSSIBLE to get as they were almost all destroyed as Alpa did not have the permission of Lowenbrau. There were also six more bottles that went into my collection when I eventually dug through them.

In St. Louis I was up at 4.30 to start setting-up at 5.00. I pulled out a very old beer (cork and lead seal and fully embossed bottle, maybe 1890's) and offered it to John Weatherhead, a beer collector at a nearby table. He offered me \$75 which I accepted. He then saw the 12 or 14 sodas that I had put out and offered me \$40, which I also accepted. I started putting out the beers and the same collector approached me. I

thought that the embossed bottle would hook him! I offered him the lot (204) and we negotiated \$1200. In all I sold \$1500 worth of bottles. This now meant that I had paid out \$200, got 12 bottles for myself, sold much of the common new stuff to Bottle Collectors Liquor Store for \$200, made \$1500 the first day of the show, and still have some bottles left to sell. The sequel to this is that John Weatherhead took out 52 beers for himself and sold the remaining 152 to two Norwegian collectors setting up a mini bottle museum, for \$1300. Everybody gained and was happy! If I could keep this up I could make a living but, of course, opportunities like this do not come along very often. Incidentally, last year in St. Louis, the Norwegians* bought three large collections before they could go on sale and have this year, during the show, bought the 19,000+ collection of Tony Dobbys from Marion, his widow. The museum should be well worth a visit when complete.

However, I have got ahead of myself. On the way to St. Louis I had some bottles to pick up. I have corresponded with John & Glenda Austin of Searcy, Arkansas over the internet and had arranged to buy some Jim Beam personalized bottles from them. I bought 103 Jim Beam and a few others. The Jim Beam were not in very good condition so I was choosy and left a lot behind that I would have bought if I had not seen them.



Bottles, Bottles Everywhere - St. Louis

Arriving in St. Louis I hooked up with Harry Goetz and Vic and Flo Visali and went for the evening to Marion Dobbys' house. We had an enjoyable evening at Marion's with collectors coming and going. Tony's collection at that time was still intact and remains the best displayed large collection that I have ever seen.

The following day (Friday) I went for a tour of the giant Anhauser-Busch brewery, which was a little disappointing, especially after the Bass Brewery I had toured in the UK. That evening I attended the AGM of the Mid-West MBC and later the auction. This is an annual event where members put a small selection of their own swaps up for auction. As usual it produced some crazy prices, the worst of which was probably \$200 for two 'cards' of Greek micro minis. Nancy was acting as cashier so I ended up helping, but then I never could resist an auction.

Saturday is show day. I shared a table with Nancy Clayton and I have already told you about my main sales activity. Sharing was a good idea as neither of us (following my beer sale) had enough bottles to fill the table and it enabled us, in turns, to wander around looking for bottles and chat to other stall holders and visitors. I bought about thirty micros, 6 jugs, 2 Doug's Nevada Brothel bottles and 18 Jim Beam personalised. Nancy left late afternoon and I went out to dinner that evening with David & Marcia Spaid, Harry Goetz, Jay Love, Adrian & Louise Carr and Taizo Shiratsuchi and his wife. As expected, Sunday

morning was very slow at the show. I took less than \$30 and nobody else seemed to sell much, other than the woman on the table next to me who sold all her remaining stock (about 1800 bottles) to a new collector.

And so back on the road. I headed south and then north again, taking every opportunity to look in antique malls, although, with a 46' rig, it was not always possible to stop. I was going to visit some of the Kentucky distilleries but decided not too as I have seen a number of them before. I did however re-visit the Elizabethtown Coca Cola Museum. There I picked up a couple of new cokes, plus a set of 6 coke cans. I picked up a few odd bottles on my way south and another Coca Cola at the Coke Experience in Atlanta. Near Charleston I had a good day when I picked up 3 macro mini bottles, 1 macro can and 4 cokes. Nancy collects a shot glass from every state that she has been to but was missing 9 and asked me to keep my eyes open for them whilst travelling. At time of writing I have managed to find 7 of them, only two in the states they were from..

In Maryland I visited Rusty Eder and his family. Rusty is not a member but an article by him has appeared in a previous miNiZ. Whilst there I photographed a number of his bottles. You will see some of these in this edition and will see more in later miNiZ. In New Jersey I visited member Vic Visalli and greatly enjoyed seeing his collection. Like me, Vic shares a passion for micro minis and has quite a few that I had not seen. I finished off May with a visit to long standing member, Dick Cotton's house. Dick has a wonderful collection of over 18,400 well displayed in his basement. Again, I photographed a number of his bottles and you will see them in this and future editions.

It was Memorial Day weekend (the US equivalent of ANZAC Day) and as I could not get a nearby campsite I parked on Dick's drive. By coincidence, Nancy Clayton was over in Massachusetts at the same time to visit family and Dick, and eventually to go down to Virginia for a wedding. She therefore stopped with me for four nights. The three of us had a couple of lengthy expeditions to find bottles. Dick found a few, Nancy none and I one, although I also got some from Dick.. I did buy 6 old (some were 1930's) Rye Whiskies in excellent condition for Ian Butcher at only \$3 each. Even though I am trying not to buy lots of bottles for other people, at that price I was not going to leave them behind. All prices I quote are, of course, US\$.



Dick Cotton, David Smith, Nancy Clayton and John DeAngelo

One evening we went to visit and have dinner with John and Mary DeAngelo, who have moved since I last met them in 1984. Their new house is stunning. It is built to look like an old barn inside and is set on, I

guess, something over an acre. Nancy and myself both shuddered to see lots of larger bottles and a few minis on the open beams though. It is obvious that the house is not in an earthquake zone! John's impressive collection is well displayed, library style, in the basement. I did some trading with John and came away with two ceramics, including an Alpa Bugs Bunny that I have been looking for for years to complete my set, and 11 Jim Beam personalised.

And that is it for now. I hope to continue this in the next miNiZ and bring you up-to-date with my collecting and visits to the end of August. I have invitations to visit a number of collectors in both the US and Canada. I expect to see many of these in the next three months. I will try wherever possible to do some more photography so that I can keep the bottle articles coming also.

As I write this it is 8th June, I am on the edge of Cape Cod, Massachusetts on a beautiful campground. The sites are all on sand hills among trees and the campground is set on three small lakes. There are squirrels playing on the roof and the temperature is an unseasonal 90° Fahrenheit - eat yer heart out!

David Smith

Tales of Blue and (Part 1)

The Spring 1998 issue of MiNiZ included a small article on Johnnie Walker Blue Label scotch whisky. The article made mention of the mini being available either individually in a satin lined presentation box or in a set with other Johnnie Walker minis.

Over the past few years I have been lucky enough to acquire each of the three presentation forms of "The blue". These are shown below.



"The blue" was first released as a tasters sample in strictly limited numbers and presented complete with a nosing glass and tasters notes from the distillery's master blender. I picked this one up during a visit to a fellow collector whilst on a business trip to the States.

Whilst the black & white picture doesn't show it well the mini itself is a standard clear glass straight bottle with a "simple" paper label. Details shown on the label are;

- Blend – *Blue Label*
- Lot No. – *71A*
- Sampling No. – **1187**
- Blender – *TH*

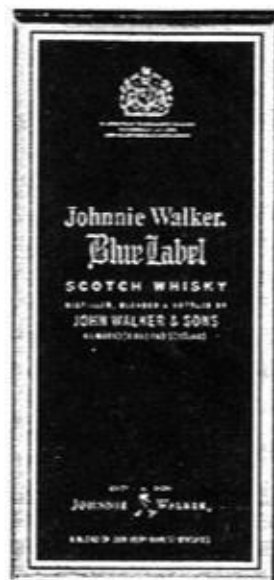
40% ALC/VOL 50ML



"The blue" next appears as a true miniature reproduction of the full sized bottle, in a satin lined presentation box as shown below. Once again the bottle itself is individually numbered with the number being recorded at the Kilmarnock distillery enabling the provenance of each bottle to be determined. This is the form outlined in the previous article (Spring 1998).

Also noted previously is the third presentation of "The blue", as part of a gift pack released for Christmas 1997 in the US.

Not the most elegant presentation but serviceable, and it does lead nicely into part 2 !!



The "big release" prior to "The blue" was Johnnie Walker Gold and as seems to be the pattern with this JW there are a number of variations. More next time !!

Errol Brassett

SOJU SPIRIT

Some of China's famous old history books describe Koreans as a people who enjoy singing and dancing, which indicates that the Korean people have long had a passion for celebration and ceremony. They have also traditionally enjoyed drinking with those close to them as means of sharing their joys and sorrows - a tradition which continues today.

Korea's remarkable economic development was made possible through hard work by Korean labourers despite the often difficult environment in which they had to work. Through the good times and the bad, many of these economic miracle workers sought relief from the stresses of life through after-hours eating and drinking. And of the many kinds of liquors, soju (Korean style distilled liquor) became the most popular amongst the general populace. In fact, soju has become the standard for alcoholic beverages for Korean people as seen in the fact that when offering to buy someone a drink, Korean's say "Let's go for a sip of soju."

In the past, soju had mainly been the drink of choice for workers and other people in urban areas while "makkoli", a milky unrefined rice wine, had been more popular in rural regions. Soju eventually became the most popular liquor in both the city and farming areas, but with the rise in the standard of living for the Korean people in general, they began to favour higher-priced beverages like beer and whiskies. Beer in particular, began to take the largest share in Korea's beverage market.

Recently, however, soju has been making a comeback with distillers concentrating more on coming up with premium-level soju's with high-quality tastes and sophisticated bottle design. The emergence of premium soju has contributed to changing the concept of soju as a low-priced liquor and has attracted popularity with its enhanced taste. The reason for soju's steady popularity through the ages, however, may lie in the fact that it offers relatively high alcohol content despite its comparatively low price. In addition, the Korean people may drink soju to recollect the times of the past and to forget current hardships, [*From experience, I know that after a couple of soju, you definitely tend to forget things !!*. Ed] which has become a major social and cultural factor for sustaining the popularity of the beverage.

Soju is a transparent distilled liquor made from starchy cereals like rice, barley, potatoes, and sweet potatoes, in contrast with other alcoholic brews which tend to go bad after a long time, soju does not sour.

Most soju products manufactured en masse in factories these days start at 95 percent alcohol and then are diluted with water to lower the alcohol content to 25 to 30 percent. Before dilution, soju may be distilled through state-of-the-art precision machines and in the process, all the impurities are completely removed. In the past, soju was not so diluted, so had special taste and flavour depending on the impurities from the ingredients and the brewery materials. The distilled and undiluted soju popular in the past, however, gave way to diluted soju's in 1960 when the government prohibited the making of the distilled-only soju in private households.

Distilled liquor is thought to have originated in Persia. The Mongolians, who "integrated" the Persian and Islamic culture into their own, then introduced distilled alcohols to Oriental society. In Arabic, distilled liquor is called "Arag" and Korean people at one time called soju "arag-ju" (arag wine). Soju was introduced to Korea during the Wan dynasty (an ancient Chinese kingdom ruled by the Mongolians), and a variety of methods for manufacturing soju developed in Korea's Koryo Kingdom. The various kinds of soju were used for many purposes, even medicinal. At the time, soju provided a "pure and clean" taste as it was made from pure cereals, but it was sold at high prices as it was not diluted with water.

The size of Korea's soju market has now reached \$1.2 billion per year. Three major companies; Jinro, Dosan-Kyungwol and Bohae, make up 48.2, 16.7 and 9.2 percent market shares, respectively. The rest of the market is served by small local producers. Jinro, Korea's largest producer, took the world's top position in 1996 in terms of sales of spirits according to UK based beverage magazine "Drinks International".

Jinro's business has been enhanced by the introduction of a new premium soju "chamnamutong-malkun soju". Doosan-Kyungwol has recently introduced a new brand "Green Soju" while Bohae has released "Kimsatkat". Japan has become the largest market outside of Korea following the popularity of soju that was generated by the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Soju in Miniature



The writer has only seen two soju miniatures, but there may be more. The pictures to each side show the two I know of. On the left is a promotional mini of the Bohae brewery premium brand Kimsatkat and on the right the Jinro chamnamutong-malkun. I also have a couple of small decanters from the Bohae brewery, which were produced for the 1988 Olympics.



Errol Brassett

A Fairy Story



In keeping with the oriental theme that has been running through recent magazines, the miniatures discussed in this article originated in Taiwan and relate to folk tales from mainland China. The same folk tales provided the inspiration for at least two other sets of miniatures that I am aware of and which may be featured in a later edition of miNiZ.

This set is my "oo ah" item as it always attracts comment and not a few offers to purchase it have been made. I am aware of only two other sets within the club, one in the States and one other in New Zealand.

The Story

Included in the satin lined box in which these miniatures are presented is a brief outline of the background to the eight fairies and a folk story in which they appear (as illustrated above). It is as follows:

"The mythical tales of the eight fairies started from the Tang dynasty and the "Eight Fairies in Birthday Celebration" was selected as one of the major themes in opera since the Yuan dynasty. The Chinese people respect and worship the fairies not for their magic power but for their spirit for truth, righteousness, perseverance and saviourship which should inspire hope, victory and success for the people.

The eight fairies have been named as Chang Kuo-Lau, Chung Li-Chuan, Lu Tung-Pin, Ho Hsien-Ku, Tieh-Kuai, Tsao Kuo-Chu, Han Hsiang-Tze and Lan Tsai-Ho. It is said that they crossed the east sea by magic power and participated in the birthday celebrations for the holy queen in heaven where they toasted the hostess with wine. Hence, "The eight fairies enjoy booze" shall mean luck, prosperity, longevity, health and fortune."

The minis themselves are true representations of wine jars still used in Taiwan on ceremonial occasions and available from the Tobacco & Wine Monopoly Bureau which produced the miniature set. Physically, the bottles are of white porcelain with brightly coloured hand painted figures on each, unfortunately my Chinese is not good enough to identify which fairy is which.

In the order that they are shown below the wine contained in each one (they all differ) is given on another enclosure in the box as being (L to R, Top to bottom) 44%, 45%, 55%, 65%, 30%, 58% 41% and 41% strong medicine in anyone's language!



Whereas the full sized jars stand some 3 feet high the miniatures are each 2 inches high. The hand painted characters on both are identical (except in size obviously) and both are sealed with corks which are then covered with a square of red cloth (red signifies good luck to the Chinese) tied with gold thread.

Errol Brassett

Did you know?

The most unusual bilingual whisky labels produced are Te Bheag (pronounced 'chey vek') which translates as 'the little lady' and Poit Dhubh (pronounced 'potch ghoo') which means 'the black pot'. These are two Gaelic-language labeled whiskies, produced by Pràban Na Linne who are based on Skye off the west coast of Scotland. A few years ago they found some unexpected fans in Canada when fifth generation Gaelic-speaking islanders on Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, began placing orders.

However, when the company made inquiries about exporting, it was shocked to learn that a bilingual English and French label would be required. The regulation was overruled by the Nova Scotia Liquor Commission who authorised the only Gaelic-French labels on earth.

Bring on the artillery Determination was certainly a characteristic of John Downes, an eighteenth century excise man based in Limerick, who was not prepared to admit defeat. On 20 February 1788, having been regularly frustrated by his inability to gain access to a known illicit distillery within the fortified walls of the castle of Ognally, he summoned military help. This duly arrived in the form of a detachment of the 27th regiment, who placed two artillery guns in front of the castle and threatened to bombard it. The residents, aware that any fire could blow them all to smithereens, quickly decided to surrender Ireland's largest-ever unofficial distillery.

What would we do without trivia?

Errol Brassett

Cloisonné Wine Jugs



At approximately 2" tall, these miniature cloisonné wine jugs are a rare find. They were made to commemorate the special significance of that most famous of Chinese beverages, Mao-tai.

At one time almost indispensable at state banquets held in Beijing or at official receptions given by Chinese envoys abroad, Mao-tai used to be the "national wine" of China.

Mao-tai is made from high quality Chinese sorghum (kaoliang) and looks crystal clear. Though a potent drink, it does not upset the stomach or burn the mouth or throat. {My own experience of Mao-tai differs a little from this description, but then again my memory of the occasion is a little hazy, this stuff can get up to 150 proof !!} Since ancient times, it has been a favorite drink with poets or others of an artistic temperament, and you will find many a work of art today that has been indirectly inspired by a delicious cup of Mao-tai.

The miniatures have never in fact contained Mao-tai but are modeled on full size jugs used to store and serve the liquor in times past.

Discovered by a US based oriental art and antiques dealer in a long forgotten storage area, the jugs were originally obtained from a Hong Kong dealer, now gone out of business. A small number of individual jugs and a very few sets became available recently and have been "snapped up" by collectors. The above photograph is the only full boxed set I have seen. A beautiful and rather special addition to any collection, including I hope my own in the near future.

BIT "O THIS, BIT "O THAT

from Dick & Rusty

Whilst travelling about the USA I have met many bottle collectors and viewed many collections. I have written a separate article about my travels but in this article and the follow on in the next miNiZ I want to show you some unusual, mainly ceramic, bottles from the collections of Dick Cotton (Massachusetts) and Rusty Eder (Maryland). Companion articles will also show you some old 'straight' glass bottles.

Dick has been a member for many years, in fact he would be the longest standing overseas member after David Spaid. He has a collection of over 18,400 bottles and this is well displayed in his basement. Also in the basement is the modest (400?) collection of Rusty Eder. Rusty inherited his collection from his grandfather who ran a liquor store in the 40's and 50's. Very few bottles have been added since that time. Rusty is not a club member (at time of writing) but originally contacted me via the web page to try to find out more about some of the bottles he had inherited.



The first bottle is one of 10 similar ones. All are glass with different coloured felt and cotton fabric forming the hood and cape. They all contain wine.

Many people think that these represent the Ku Klux Klan but that is not so. Dick has an article displayed with the bottles that shows a photograph of a Holy Week procession in Spain featuring these characters. They are the Hooded Penitents of the Saint Bernando Brotherhood and they parade through Seville every year. The procession originated in a 1501 Century tradition allowing sinners to take part in Holy Week activities without being recognised.

The next photo shows two more bottles from Dick. The first is from Famous Firsts and is, of course, the famous cracked Liberty Bell. Did you know that Bow Foundry in London, who cast the original Liberty Bell, presented the American people with a replacement bell and letter of apology upon the occasion of the US bi-centenary in 1976?

The tortoise or turtle is from Giulio Barattucci and contains Liquore Corfino.



On this page we mainly have bottles from Rusty.

The first photo shows some Gamier figures. These were sold in Maryland between 1947 & 1950. We are able to date them from the Comptroller's name on the tax stamp. Shown are the Frog (white & green), Dog (white and brown) and Duck (white and maroon). The first elephant (white only) on the second photo is also a Gamier.



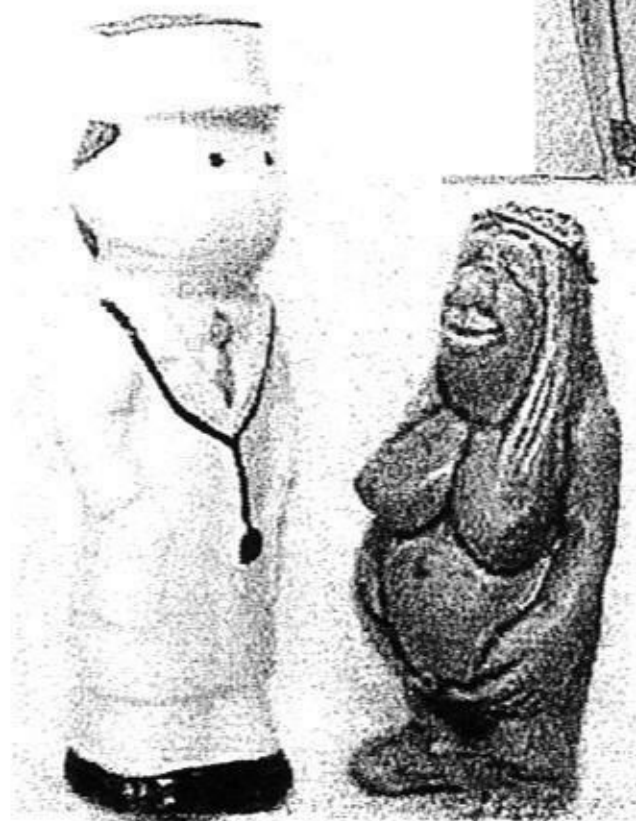
The rest of the bottles on this page are from Rosard, a Californian wine company, but were bottled by Howard B. Young, Jefferson, Wisconsin. They date from 1939-1947. The horse's head, which is bright blue, comes from Dick's collection and the other four from Rusty's. The elephant and jug on the right are a creamy grey, the jug on the left orangey brown and the football dark brown.



On this page we continue with some more Garnier minis from Rusty's collection. These are known as the skittles and again date from 1947 - 1950. They will be familiar to many of you as they have been pictured in many articles, although never in miNiZ. They are highly sought after by figural collectors but difficult to find.

There is a book on Garnier bottles if you wish to know more, although it has been out of print for many years.

The final picture, which is from Dick, shows two bottles from Toscoliquoristica Il Niccolo.



The Doctor is bright white so the photo may not show up too well. He is examining Eve, who is obviously past her prime judging by her sagging breasts and potbelly.

However, she does have a fine suntan and the green leaf is still appropriately placed so obviously she does not seem to have a gynecological problem.

I will show you more great bottles from these two fine collections in the next miNiZ.

David Smith

Rye Whiskey

From Dick & Rusty

The first and last 6 of these bottles are from Dick Cotton's collection and the other two from Rusty Eder's. I will largely let the bottles speak for themselves.



First off is the Old Quaker. This is an unusual shaped bottle that is embossed on the back. The label is a riot of colours. Second is Large Monongahela. This was made Fall 1933 and bottled in bond spring 1938. The main label is white with a yellow centre. A label on the side says "Sample: Not to be sold. Possession of the bottle by licensee is unlawful." Clarkes is next with a rather plain label that probably started off white. The Wolf Creek shown here is one of three variations that Dick has. It was bottled by Rankford Distillers

Inc., Baltimore, Maryland and is in a brown bottle. The label on this is also colourful but I do not think that it will copy very well.

Bottle 5, the first on the second row, is Old American. The bottle is embossed on the back and has a yellow label. Next up is the real gem, and not only because it states "bottled for the use of invalids." It was made in Spring 1892 and bottled Spring 1899 - 100 years ago. The bottle is in remarkable condition. It is one of a box of a dozen discovered by John DeAngelo a few years ago. It is a plain brown bottle with a plain looking white label, but who cares at this age?



Bottle 7 is Wright's Sherbrook 5 year old Maryland Rye. It was bottled between 1950 and 1959 and again the label is yellow. No. 8 is Rittenhouse Straight Rye, which was bottled in bond in Pennsylvania between 1947 and 1950. The label is in gold and green with a metallic finish.

To the left is Gibson's XXY-X which states that it is blended straight whiskies. This seems like a contradiction in terms until you realise how old the bottle is. A label on the back states that the tax was paid 5-1-37. In those days all sorts of rubbish and neutral spirits were blended in with whiskey. It was bottled in the sounding town of Alladin in Pennsylvania.

Next up is BPR otherwise known as the Baltimore Pure Rye Co. It was bottled in bond in Spring 1961. This is again one of several that Dick has. This and the next bottle, Ruxton, are brown. The Ruxton was bottled by Crosse & Blackwell, better known these days for groceries rather than liquor. The label is multi coloured.

The last row starts with Paul Revere, the epitome of an American revolutionary. It was, of course, bottled in Canada! Tax was paid on 6-6-39. It is another

label that, unfortunately, I do not think will show up very well. It does, of course, show Paul Revere on his famous ride. Middle of the last row is Marilyn Pure Rye from 1928. It has a nice green label in great condition. Last, but not least is a lovely embossed bottle, Rittenhouse Square Straight Rye Whisky. (note no 'E' in whiskey). Like the other Rittenhouse this is also a B in B bottle but in this case the label mainly black and red.

Hope you enjoyed seeing these. I will have some more old straights for you in the next miNiZ.

David Smith

In search of a filler, and because the issue is raised in the item above, I have reproduced below a small item from "Whisky Talk" an interesting and useful little book by Andrew Jones, the "Flying Wine Man".

The Mythical

'E'

In general usage an e is used in the spelling of whiskey from Ireland and the United States of America.

The debate about its use is not new. It has often been suggested that the e came from the original spelling of the word 'whiskey' in Ireland and was later taken to North America by the Scots-Irish settlers. It arrived in Kentucky as those emigrants headed west.

However, practice does not always support theory. An 1896 price list for Victoria wine, the first multiple wine and drink retailer in Great Britain, spells the word without an e on nine occasions while referring to the Irish spirit. An advertising poster of the same era from the Dublin Whisky Distillery Co. uses the word twice without an e, as does a similar later poster for the Phoenix Park distillery. Across the Atlantic the Nelson County Record of Bardstown, Kentucky, in a special 1896 edition, contains a comprehensive history and background to nearly 40 local distillers and always spells the word with an e, with the exception of two items in one sketch of three barrels. Further more, historians agree that the Scots-Irish were largely responsible for the birth of Canadian Whisky. Yet in Canada the word has virtually always been spelt with an e.

In contrast, Dickens, in his *Sketches by Boz*, used an e, as in "...he went home ... for his whiskey and water". In 1795 Thomas Carneal, acting for the United States Federal Government, issued a notice that he needed "a quantity of *whiskeu*, for the use of the army, for which cash will be offered in payment". In 1814, a Louisville, Kentucky, store announced its sale of "Rye *Whiskey*". An 1877 advertisement for Geo. Roe & Co's Dublin Whiskey spells the word with an e on eight occasions.

In 1889 the Kentucky Historian Colonel Reuben T. Durrett, writing about Evan Williams and his 1783 distillery, used *whisky*, something he surely would not have done if the e was in common use. Two years earlier Alfred Barnard, in his *Whisky Distilleries of the United Kingdom*, wrote of 28 distilleries he had visited in Ireland and never once used an e. In their 1896 list John Harvey & Sons of Bristol, England, offered seven items under Irish *Whisky*.

The situation remains confused, as neither the Paddy label from Ireland, George Dickel from Tennessee or Makers Mark, Old Forester and Early Times from Kentucky use an e.

The plural of whisky is whiskies, but the plural of whiskey is whiskeys. This makes it very difficult to provide a generic plural in countries or states where both spellings are used.

Spelling whisky with or without an e appears to be largely a matter of human (or editorial) whim.

Errol Brassett

Administration bits

Meetings.

The meetings for 1999/2000 are listed in the back of the membership list enclosed with this magazine but those for the next quarter are given below.

Note: It is the responsibility of the host to contact those members likely to attend each meeting and to confirm numbers. However, it will always be appreciated if members could contact the host ahead of time to let them know if you will be attending.

Lower North Island meetings:

July 17 th – 18 th	Bottle Collectors Show, Lower Hutt Horticultural Hall
August 15 th	Hewitson's, 21 Terry Crescent, Palmerston North, (Ph. 06-357-4394) Pot Luck Lunch
September 19 th	Ryder's, 20 Prospect Terrace, Johnsonville, (Ph. 04-478-4391)
October 17 th	Butcher's, 60 Discovery Drive, Whitby, (Ph. 04-234-7349)

South Island (Christchurch)

July 25 th	Fretwell's, 61 Port Hills Road, Heathcote, (Ph. 03-384-9757)
September 26 th	Mellish's, 66 Rudds Road, (Ph. 389-9706)
November 28 th	Harvey's, 44 Basingstoke St, Wainoni, (Ph. 03-388-7713)

Any meetings in the upper North Island organised yet ??? and how about the upper South Island ???



New Members:

It's been a while since the last MiNiZ so we have a bit off a list here ! All of those listed are reflected in the June 1999 membership list.

Welcome to the following new members,

Rae Anderson	8 Ariel Place, Christchurch
Ruby Howell	604 N 3 rd St, Garden City, Kansas 601206, USA
Teresa Kaufman	10385 SW Hillview St, Tigard, Oregon 97224, USA Email: Tkauf19189@aol.com
Alvin Nixon	612 Baker St, Blackville, SC 29817, USA Email: ampbk@bamwellsc.com

Bill Gueho	2675 Andover Rd, Nanoose Bay, BC Canada V9P 9J5 Email billbetgueho@bcsupernet.com
Jean-Claude Nadeau	2732 Wilbrod, Beuport, PQ, Canada G1E 3P5 Email gilles.nadeau@videotron.ca
Stephen Moore	16 Semei St. 1, #09-04 Melville Park, Singapore
Sandra Beddie	45 McKillop St, Porirua
Trudy Hollier	52 Bell St, Linden, Tawa

Address Changes

The following members have packed up their collections and taken them to new homes.

Gary Carvey	P O Box 671, Waikanae, (156 Te Moana Rd. Waikanae)
Jennifer Findlay-Ives	46 Williams St, Prebbleton, Ch-Ch
Paul Whitty	11 Rutland St, Stoke, Nelson

Colin Fitzpatrick has also followed a friend from Tawa to Napier/Hastings (congratulations are in order) but as yet has not us know his new address.



