

SUMMER 2000

ISSUE NO 55

Auckland
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New Zealand
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Greymouth
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Mi Nil

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PORT NICHOLSON MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



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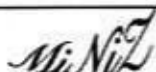
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**PECKHAM
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Editorial Comment

Welcome to the "Millennium" edition of miNiZ. We have had a range of contributions from both members and (currently) non-members to make this what I hope is a very full and interesting edition.

More Changes ...

Thank you to those who have taken the time to contact me and comment on the evolution of the magazine. Your encouragement is appreciated.

Without wanting to sound "evangelical" I do have a vision of miNiZ as the leading miniature bottle related club magazine around and I think that we are well on the way toward achieving that.

A few more changes this issue and a couple more steps down the path to a more professional appearance.

The information block to the left of this column is probably the most obvious change. This is where all the 'nitty gritty' of the publication of miNiZ will appear, with contact details for both the club and the publishers, acknowledgement of contributions and some legal stuff which has become somewhat more important as the magazine has changed.

This issue of miNiZ is to be submitted to a couple of overseas publishing houses who offer free "makeover" advice to publications such as ours so the outcome of that should be quite interesting, particularly as some of the changes already made have been inspired by makeovers that they have published.

Look also for a formal ISSN number which has been sought from the National Library of New Zealand and which should be allocated in time for the next issue. This will move miNiZ to a new level of legitimacy as a serious hobby magazine.

miNiZ on the Web ...

This has proven to be a somewhat controversial topic among members.

As has been quite correctly pointed out, the free publication of the magazine on the net virtually negates a major benefit of club membership, particularly for those members located outside of New Zealand.

For this reason it has never been the intention to continue to release the magazine onto the net in total (in fact it never has been available in total). It is however the intention to continue make part of it available by this means.

From this current issue onwards, the cover page, plus one complete article from the issue will be freely available from the Peckham Publishing Website (see side bar for URL) within one week of hardcopy publication. (This issue's "free" article is the lead story as this was part of the publication agreement reached with the company holding copyright on the items themselves.) A hyperlinked index of the full issue will also appear on the site.

For articles other than the one selected for "free" web publication a username and password will be needed to get beyond the index. While the username will remain constant the password will be changed with each issue and will be provided as part of the standard text of the information bar to the left of this editorial column.

I hope you enjoy this issue & I will "see" you all again in June with the next issue.

Errol Brassett
Editor

Cover Bottles

As this issue will be arriving soon after St. Patrick's day it seems appropriate for the lead story to include a touch of the Irish, Guinness that is.

His name is Bottler and he was the first of several leprechaun travelers to make their way to Palmerston North where they occupy pride of place in a home where a number of differing collections, including obviously miniatures, reside.

The question is – what do they get up to when no-one is watching??

The story and accompanying pictures, which were contributed by Glenys and Kevin Hewitson, also demonstrate the "cross-over" effect that is so often found among collectibles.

So pour yourself a Guinness (or a Bushmills !) and read on. The "wee folk" appear on page 4 and they have both a reputation and a talent for mischief, so be careful what you wish for !

Ambassadorial Tales:

With David back in New Zealand (most of the time) and no-one else (that we know of) taking the opportunity to find themselves or seek their fortune, the post of roving ambassador remains vacant. Consequently, this section of the magazine will be disappearing for a while, at least until another appointment is made.

David has placed the last of his journals on the club Website (for URL see information sidebar on editorial page) and brings us full circle with his return to Patea and to the club presidency – Welcome back.

Patea Weekend & Club A.G.M

The annual general meeting of the club was held at the Patea farm of Di and Ron Opie on the weekend of February 26/27. Attendance was overall at a level higher than I have seen it in 5-6 years so this bodes well for the club in general.

The club committee has been returned pretty much as it has been for some years now and is reflected in the membership list enclosed with this issue of miNiZ.

The remainder of the weekend consisted of a number of excuses to simply kick back and relax in between far too much food and enjoy the company of fellow collectors.

Particular mention should be made of the car rally/treasure hunt organised (with police assistance !) by Pam Fowler. An excellent course with a challenging of clues made it possibly the best one ever (even if I didn't win), thanks Pam we look forward to next year's.

Also a feature this year, was the display of some of the bottles David Smith had picked up during his US peregrination over 1999 and an better than average turnover of bottle sales and exchange activity.

Also of note was the widening of the range of meeting locations that the New Zealand members can look forward to this year with Auckland members undertaking to arrange meetings for the upper North Island (thanks Nell and Colin), a central North Island meeting being arranged in Taihape (see you in May Sharon) and a continuation (or maybe expansion?) of meetings in the mainland.

The 2001 weekend and AGM are set down for February 17-18 "at the farm" and I thoroughly commend it to any and all members. See you all there

Collection Crossovers

How many readers saw the Star Trek movie 'The Wrath of Khan'? How many noticed the irony that the Klingons were portmanteaus of it and Khan? (Now you are not the only secret 'Trekkies' you know!). The Klingons that were featured as being 'alien' were in fact full sized versions of the George Dickel powder horn decanters, which many of us have the miniature version of in our collections. Maybe it's something about the name but George Lucas was apparently so taken with them when he saw one in a store that he had his props department haul them down from nearby stores all over the US. That's the story that a seller of Star Trek movie memorabilia used to tell me, until the miniature of the powder horn through an on-line auction for around US\$120. A cross-over collectible.

Similarly, how many times do you find ceramic figurines in antique and 'junk' shops being sold as railway figurines? Particularly those by Wade, Dill or other mainstream ceramic artists.

The lead article for this issue highlights a new cross-over collectible that perhaps falls into at least three categories, one of which is miniature bottle collecting.

Ed



A Touch 'O' the Blarney

Contributed by Glenys and Kevin Hewitson

The Birth of A Legend

Legend has it that the Blarney Stone formed half of the original Stone of Scone and was given to Cormac McCarthy, Lord of Blarney, in 1314 by Robert the Bruce in gratitude for boosting his battalions with 40,000 troops during the victorious Battle of Bannockburn. But it wasn't until Cormac McCarthy saved an old woman from drowning that he learned the secret of the stone: that it would bestow the gift of eloquence upon anyone who kissed it. Since that time, people have come from the four corners of the earth to kiss the Blarney Stone...

(For those of a geological bent, the Blarney Stone is cleaved Lower Carboniferous (Mississippian) biomicrite - (pale grey, massive Waulsortian 'reef' limestone. See below. Ed)

Declan Fearon's passion for Irish lore gave birth to the Finnians. Each has a unique personality and story making them more than just figurines.

Each figure carries a small piece of Blarney Stone for luck.

Extract from the documents accompanying each figure:

Now, in front of you, stands an authentic Blarney Stone, rich in traditions and mystic powers, bestowing good luck and eloquence upon all those who kiss it.

Guard it well and it's magic will work for you.
Bestow the gift of eloquence.

Local tradition in Blarney identifies a limestone quarry on Starch Hill in the townland of Killard as the source of stone used in Blarney Castle, including the Blarney stone. I have inspected this quarry, lying some 3/4 of a mile from the Castle, and confirm that the lithology of the Blarney Stone and that of the limestone in the Starch Hill Quarry are indistinguishable: they are both cleaved Lower Carboniferous (Mississippian) biomicrite - (pale grey, massive Waulsortian 'reef' limestone). Continued on next page

I have recorded the dimensions of Starch Hill Quarry and estimated the tonnage of limestone removed/quarried and confirm that it is more than adequate to have supplied the volume of stone required for the construction of Blarney Castle.

I can confirm that this stone comes from Starch Hill Quarry, and is indistinguishable lithologically from the Blarney stone.

DR. JOHN JACKSON, M.A., Ph. D., F.G.S.

Consultant Geologist - Former Curator National Museum of Dublin

... and on with the story

Pictured below are the four "Guinness Finnians" in the range – so far, together with the 'pen portrait' that accompanies each one.

The first wee man I found, you have already met, he is *Bottler - The Blender* and he was sitting nursing his bottle on Guinness (mini of course) in a local china store. He is 3½" x 2½"



"Sure Bottler is me name and well earned it is for you'll never catch me too far from my favourite brew. There's nothin' I like better than to have a wee drop with me Finnian friends when the laughter and the singin' and the jokin' is mighty. So join me now in a toast to the old sod and sure we'll be the luckiest men alive never to have a hangover with me Blarney stone to keep us fit and well."

Next came *Stout* "Guinness for Strength" (4" x 3½") carrying his Guinness on his back...



"Dont let looks deceive ye now my friends. You may think I'm small but you can search the length and breadth of Ireland 'til you're blue in the face and you'll not find a stronger man than my good self. With a rub of my lucky Blarney stone no task can daunt me or feat of strength defeat me. And sure 'tis well known there's no more powerful boost to a hard working man than a pint of Guinness at the end of a busy day."

Pottet "My Goodness My Guinness" (4½" x 3") came next leaning on his Guinness...



"Gather round me now good folks 'til I tell ye all about my favourite drink. A nice big creamy pint of Guinness. Ye know it's not always we get such enjoyment from something that's so good for us, for nothing cures our ailments as quickly as good company and plenty of conversation. Sure it's guaranteed that a few pints of stout will loosen the tongue and with the help of the Blarney Stone we'll drink and talk our cares away."

Finally (for now anyway) *Arthur* "Lovely Day for a Guinness" (5 x 3¼) sitting on a barrel - joined his friends in Kevin's collection...



"Top o' the mornin' to all ye good folks, Arthur is me name and 'tis a proud wee fellow I am to be called after the man who gave us Ireland's proudest possession, Guinness. And sure isn't every day a lovely day for a Guinness and what could be more enjoyable than good company and a few pints. So if you're willing we'll put our feet up together and while away a few hours sittin' here enjoying our favourite brew."

So, miniature bottle collectors, Irish collectible collectors, Guinness related 'stuff' collectors, little people collectors ...the list goes on, a real crossover collectible piece!

The text and pictures used in this article are used with the kind permission of:

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Memories...

Judy & Gordon Homewood

In this article, Judy and Gordon remind us of the reason that many of us collect mini's — not for fiscal gain or simple decoration — but for the memories they hold. I for one tend to use mini's as reminders of the places they came from or the people I've met along the way.

Ed

... of a trip enjoyed

When Gordon & I were on holiday in Australia in 1997, we were travelling from Melbourne to Sydney via the coastal Princes Highway where we spotted a sign for the Nowra Naval Airforce Base museum. Being aircraft enthusiasts, our travelling companion included, we called in for a look around. It was very interesting, well worth a visit if travelling in the area. On our way out, we called into the museum shop where these bottles (photos below) were on display. They caught my eye as I am a fan of Australian wines, so I decide to buy one or two. We were on the last leg of our journey and were already loaded to the max, including other mini's we had bought on the way. However, we could not choose between them so we ended up buying the set (the extra weight and bulk necessitated buying yet another travel bag!).

Each bottle cost A\$9.50 and they are quite heavy being made of ceramic. Each one depicts a different Squadron number and motto, printed brown on a cream ceramic and they are quite elegant. All bottles contain a Tawny Port made by Oakwood Wines, 7 Olive Grove, Keysborough, Victoria 3173. Each one contains 100mls, of port making them perhaps a little bigger than the average mini, but they don't look out of place in our collection.

Nowra is approximately 50km. south of Wollongong which in its turn is south of Sydney. A number of our New Zealand Air Force personnel are stationed there at times for training.



... of the past

The picture below shows some of our newer acquisitions brought home for us by family members. Our daughter Shelley was travelling through Britain and Europe last year (1998) and visited the Tomatin Whiskey Distillery where they acquired the nicely package miniature, complete with brown cardboard cylinder labeled the same as the bottle. She and her boyfriend were fascinated by the process of making whisky.

They also stayed at Loch Ness – no monster, but a mini for mum – and they went to the Isle of Skye where they bought me the Dunvegan mini. I already had the Isle of Skye Whisky which son David bought me from England. These two mini's mean a great deal to me as my Great-grandfather was born on Skye and was a Dunvegan McLeod.

I am fast coming to the conclusion that it is not so much the number of mini's one collects but the memories and special significance that are the most important part of collecting. Many of our bottles are just "bottles" but there are lots of others that I would not part with for love or money.



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Bit "o This, Bit "o That

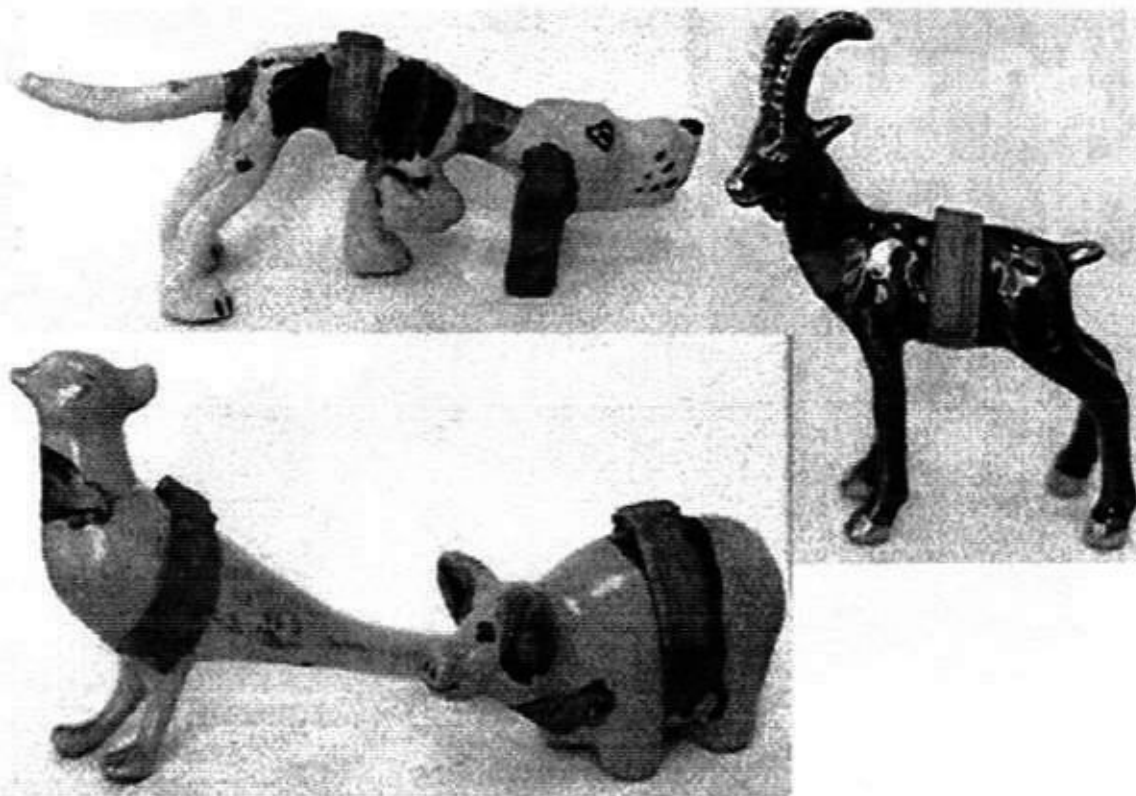
From Dick & Rusty

This article carries on from one which appeared in the Autumn 99 issue of miNiZ (Issue 53) and is one of several that were temporarily misplaced in a reorganisation of the "editorial office".

Ed

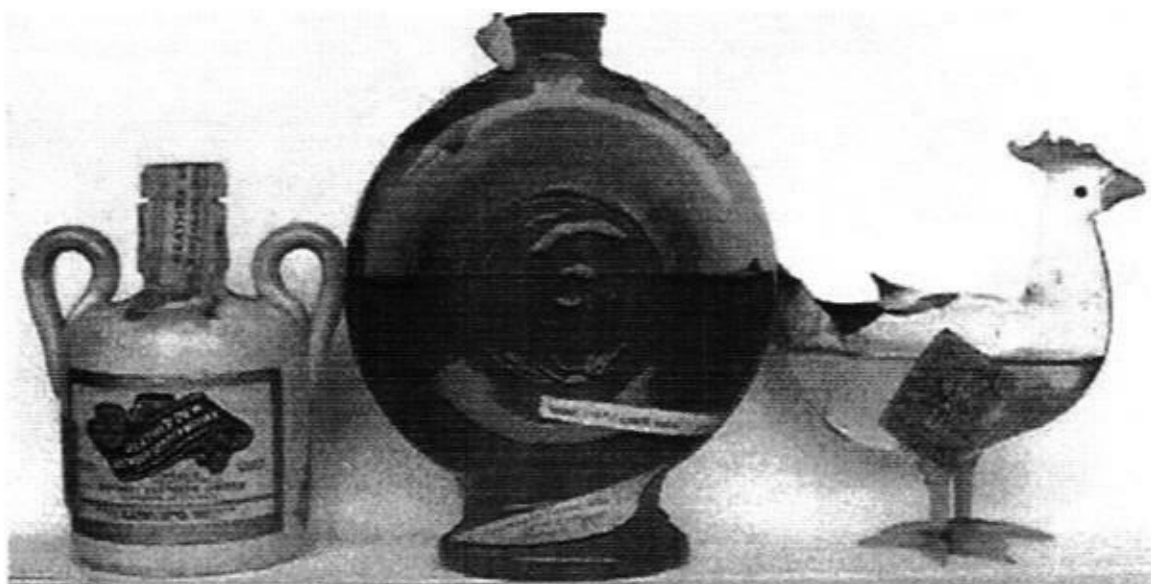
In this edition of miNiZ I want to continue showing you some of the (mainly) ceramic bottles from the collections of Dick Cotton and Rusty Eder.

First off we have a set from Dick that I have never seen before. They are from John De Kuyper and Sons, Jersey City, New Jersey, not, you will note the familiar De Kuyper from Holland. They are old but we do not know how old - does anyone have any information?



Shown first is a dog, probably meant to be a Bloodhound and obviously hot on the trail. He is in cream with dark brown spots. The antelope is the best of the four. It is in royal blue, highlighted with gold and contains Kummel. Those of you familiar with the Hine stag will know how good this looks. Next is a yellow bird with a very long tail - it is half hidden behind the pig. It contains Creme de Menthe and the pig contains Creme de Cacao. The pig is cream with a brown belt and brown ears.

Shown on the next page is one of my favourite bottles. I don't know why but I have always liked the moving picture bottles from the 1950's. This one is from Casa Vinicola Boccaccio. It depicts a moon and baby with two lovers (not three or four - this is the 1950's not 60's!) kissing on a park bench. I have picked up two different moving picture bottles on my travels and will show you them at a later date. Next to it is the Luxardo Bulldog, which, like many Luxardo bottles, contains Cherry Liqueur.



Next to the bulldog is a bottle, Olla, that is a bit of a mystery. One book shows it coming from Columbia and one from Mexico. It contains Tequila and has a bag of salt attached so Mexico seems more likely. Does anyone know for sure? The bottle is black and the picture multicoloured with a red surround.

Below and on the next page we see five bottles, yes 5 not 6, as we are seeing the two sides of the jug (on the left of the pictures above & below). These are from Rusty Eder's collection.

The jug, which is made by Possil Pottery, has fooled a number of people. Do you index it as Heather Dew, Blended Scotch Whiskey or as the Greybeard? It was made by Mitchell Brothers Ltd, Glasgow and imported into the US by Foreign Vintages Inc. New York. I have seen lots of large ones of these in the antique malls in the US but no minis.

The second bottle in the middle frame on the previous page is a dark green Armagnac. It is a lovely bottle but does not show up on the photo. The final bottle in the middle set on the previous page is a blown glass chicken. It is from Germany and the contents from Holland. It dates from 1950-59.

The blue delft bottle in the centre of the lower picture on the previous page contains Apricot liqueur and is from P. Hoppe. It was imported by Van Munching & Co., New York (who are still in business) between 1950 and 1959.

The final bottle was once again imported into Maryland during the 1950's. It is La Madrilena "Budda" bottle from San Antonio in Texas, although the contents come from Mexico. I saw at least a dozen different ones of these in Nancy Clayton's collection in April.

David Smith



Seven Fine Old Rums

From Dick Cotton

The title says it all. It is not often that we picture rums so I am sure that you will appreciate seeing these.



Marin Distilled Puerto Rico Gold Label Rum is the only green bottle in this group. It has a cork cap with a lead seal and red ribbons leading to mock medals. Rum Georgettia, Rum Superieur Des Antilles is a clear class bottle with raton on the base and cap. Government House White Label Rum is again in a clear bottle and has a cork cap. I consider the next bottle to be the pick of the bunch. Crystal Rum, from Beograd (Belgrade, Yugoslavia wonder if the distillery was bombed?) is in a clear glass bottle with a crown cap. It is obviously very old - does anyone know how old? Minute Man Straight New England Rum was bottled by Sibony Distilling Corp., Philadelphia. It is probably a little newer than the others in this group. The bottle is brown and note that it has a cardboard Minute Man hanging from the neck. The last bottle above is Habanero Mexican Rum. The bottle is brown and it has a cork cap with lead seal. It was bottled on 8-1-34 at 62.4% proof Dick also has a whiskey with an almost identical label.



Finally, on the left we have the newest bottle. It is Coral Isle Fine Old Rum. It contains a blend of Jamaica and other British W.I. rums. It was bottled at 70 proof by MacDonald & Muir Ltd., Leith (Leith is the port town for Edinburgh).

David Smith

Fifty Eight Dutch Wins in Pt. 1

From Bill Gueho

In the first of a three part series, Bill brings us some excellent examples of an area of miniature collecting that is not often highlighted. Although the bottles themselves are usually quite plain, the labels used on Dutch gins – especially old ones, make them – I think, an extremely interesting aspect. Ed

This is the first of three articles where I bring you pictures of some very fine old Dutch Gins. All the bottles are very similar in that they are cylindrical and green but the labels vary greatly. The labels will largely be left to speak for themselves. All of these minis were originally in the collection of the late Hamilton Stamford of California and date mainly from 1920's to the 1940's, with a few newer. I understand that many of these bottles were found in a cellar when a canal house in Amsterdam was being either torn down or extensively remodelled.

Note the two different Dutch spellings for Gin - Jenever and Genever. Note also that some of these gins are not flavoured with the usual Juniper. Jonge is Dutch for Orange for instance.

The first photo shows (from left to right): **Gulpener Distilleerderij Jenever** (plain white label with red and black printing). **Verhoeven's Jonge Dubbele Graan-Genever** (plain white label with black writing). **Meder Zeer Oude Genever** (white labels with black writing and 'Meder' in red). **De Boog Oude Schiedammer** (black and orange label).



The second photo shows: **Pompe & Gebrs-Mann Jenever** (parchment type label with red and brown printing). **De Drie Boompjes Oude Jenever** (this label is nicotine stained but was probably originally white or cream. The trees are in green [what else] and the writing in red and black). **Floryn Zeer Oude Genever** (colourful label in a mixture of yellow, green, red, orange and white. Note the word 'Chrysanthemum' above 'Floryn.' I do not know whether this is a trade name or a flavouring for the

gin). v/h Hartevelt & Zoon Supra Genever (pale green label with gold highlights and black & red writing).

To the right we have: Kopper's Kaper Oude Genever (white label with the central picture in green and the writing in red & black). J. J. Melchers Wz de Grootste Genever Stokerij (yellow and white label with red and white writing and the elephant in grey). MDZ Fijne Schiedamsche Genever (colourful label in basically red, yellow and green).



Schermer's Oude Jenever (nicotine stained label that was probably white. The seal is red and the writing black).



The next four all have a nautical flavour: H. van Toor Op Sleptouw Oude Genever (white with gold edge label with red and black writing and ship). Fred Sleutel Steamer Echte Oude Friesche Genever (white label with black and green writing). Schade & Buysing Oude S&B Zeer Oude Genever (white labels with red and black labels). Admiral Gins Liqueur Alfijd Supérieur (this is a colourful label with

the admiral in blue. Note that there is no maker shown and the unusual English and French wording).

On this page we start with: **De Keizer Zwarte Bessen Jenever** (white label with red and black printing). **L. Smeets Romans Zeer Fine Oude Genever** (white label with red and black printing). **De Kempen Oude Genever** (white label with yellow highlights and blue and black writing). **Van Berckel De**



Papagaai Echte Schiedamsche Genever (finally, a familiar name - I assume 'De Papagaai' is Parrot in Dutch. The label is pale and mid green with white writing and a red parrot and trim).



Finally for this issue we have: **Condor Oude Klare** (white label with a red star and everything else in black). **Wyers Oude Genever** (brown, white and blue label with white writing). **Vlek & Co. Hollandsche Jenever Oude Delft** (white label with red, gold & blue highlights). **P. van Gent's Zeer Oude Genever** (white label with red and black writing).

That's the lot for this issue. I will have another sixteen of these great old bottles in the next miNiZ.

Visit to Silver Creek Distillery

Last year I got an E-mail from Silver Creek Distillery in Rigby, Idaho asking if I would put a link from the club web page to theirs. I did and this led to an exchange of E-mails and an invitation to visit whilst in the US last year.

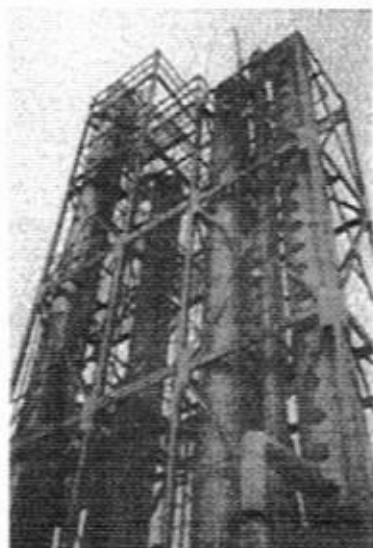
In September I went to see them and a lady, Lisa, gave me an excellent tour. I also met the manager, Gray Ottley. Being a plant & machinery valuer I am no stranger to this type of operation but it is always interesting to see another plant. Silver Creek is not very big but it is big enough to turn out vodka, and soon gin, in full commercial quantities. They make all their vodka from potatoes and originally had their own brand, Silver Creek. To begin with they even grew their own potatoes. They now specialise in producing and bottling, high quality spirits for other companies. Interestingly, unlike most distilleries, they are well set up for producing minis, although they only make Glacier Vodka mini at present. This square bottle is a faithful reproduction of the larger one, although they also sell the larger size in a lovely decanter type bottle - shown to the right. (A mini of this would be nice Gray). Other brands include Zodiac, which comes in 12 bottle designs.



Much of the rest of this article is taken directly from Silver Creek's publicity leaflets.

Many people think that all vodka is made from potatoes. Actually, nearly all spirits produced today are made from a wide variety of grains. Many New Zealand spirits are made using whey alcohol - as is the original Baileys Irish Cream. (As an aside, this was the only connection with Ireland as the whey alcohol came from Waterford. Baileys was concocted in a laboratory north of London). Silver Creek distillers use high quality Idaho Russet potatoes which have a consistent and ideal solids level for producing good starches and sugars. These potatoes produce a taste and smoothness that cannot be gained from distilling grains. Add to that pure borewell water from a mountain fed aquifer directly below the distillery and all the natural elements are there for producing good spirits.





Prior to last year my picture of Idaho was the plains of the mid-west. This is totally wrong. "Idaho" is a name originating from an Indian word meaning "Light on the Mountains" The State boasts eighty-one mountain ranges, 82,000 square miles of pristine landscape, more running water than any other state, and the largest area of untracked wilderness in the lower 48 states. It is a land of high deserts (boring to drive through), long rivers, and wide open expanses of terrain. In short, there is lots to do here and I enjoyed my time in the State.

And then there is the potato. I associated potatoes with Idaho long before I went there. The unique environment, including the light alluvial soil, cool nights, warm days, and pure snow melt-water combine to produce the highest quality and best tasting potatoes in the US.

The process at Silver Creek starts by cooking whole washed potatoes. This causes the starch molecules to be broken down into sugar. The cooked potatoes are then transferred into one of three fermenters. A precise amount

of yeast and enzymes are added and in a few days a potato beer is produced (for once I would prefer Steinlager). The beer is then distilled using a four column, multi-plate, distillation process. Each plate in each of the four rectifying columns works like the familiar pot still, so instead of being distilled two or three times, as in a typical pot still operation, the spirit is effectively distilled 50 times. The objective is to produce vodka that is exceptionally clean and smooth but possessing a rich body. The production process is completed by filtering the 'raw' spirit through charcoal and garnet (yes, garnet, as in jewellery) crystal filters and adding filtered borewell water to produce the correct proof. Subtle changes are made to the process, by the master distiller, to is a single, modern, bottling line with interchangeable machines and produce the different vodkas, but all use the same ingredients. There parts so that a whole range of sizes and shapes are catered for.



Gray gave me two Glacier minis, as shown to the left, so one will be part of a club prize at a later date. This was a difficult mini to photograph, as most of the label is silver, so I hope you can see how nice it is.

David Smith

Administration bits ...

Meetings.

The New Zealand meetings agreed to by those present at the Patea weekend are listed in on the inside back page of the February 2000 membership list. Meetings arranged for the first 1/4 of 2000 are listed 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

March 19	2 pm	Sunday	David Smith 86 Rawhiti Road Pukerua Bay (04)-239-9536
April 16	2 pm	Sunday	Colin Ryder 20 Prospect Terrace Johnsonville (04)-478-4391
May 21	12 Noon	Sunday	Sharon Cummings Deacons Road RD5 Taihape (06)-388-1561

As at the time of producing the membership list and this magazine, meeting dates for the central South Island (the Mainland) and for the upper North Island had not been notified.



New Members:

Current financial membership is reflected in the listing provided with this issue of miNiZ.



Address Changes:

The following amendments to contact details were notified after the February 2000 membership list (which accompanies this issue of miNiZ) was printed. They are shown on an addendum sent with the list and will be incorporated into the next membership list which will be released mid year.

A membership details update form is also enclosed & should be completed and returned to the editor (contact details on the form and on page 2 of this issue of miNiZ) should any alterations be necessary.

Please ensure that any necessary amendments to addresses or other contact details are notified to the