

Issue 57

Winter 2001



MINIIZ

THE NEWSLETTER OF PORT NICHOLSON MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



Australasia's only Miniature Bottle Club

EDITORIAL

This is the first issue of miNiZ since July last year, for which I must apologise on behalf of the club. I have been editor since the end of February but have not been able to put an issue of miNiZ out. Without getting into acrimony I believe that members are owed a brief explanation.

The previous editor turned out only three, instead of the minimum four, issues of miNiZ in the 1999/2000 year. He recognised his shortcoming and promised to do better if re-elected for 2000/2001. A miNiZ was produced in July 2000 and from November onwards the next one was 'almost complete.' In February of this year the previous editor 'had a miNiZ less than two weeks away' from being published and asked that he be allowed to publish it before I took over. At the March meeting it was to be published within a week.

I have been prevented from getting an issue out as I have had no way of knowing which articles were going to be published by the previous editor. The club finally had notice a week ago that the previous editor was not going to publish a miNiZ. So here we are. I have received a small amount of miNiZ material only, some of it without names on. If I publish it and do not acknowledge you I apologise in advance. Please drop me a line and I will give you credit in the next issue. One of the articles I have been given is from Ian Butcher. It is over a year old now but as it is a continuation of another article I have decided to publish it. The final article of my six part series, "What Kind of Animal are You?" has never been published and has not been returned. I will try to reconstruct this and publish it in the next miNiZ.

On to brighter things – very much brighter things. Unless you are colour blind you will have by now noticed the cover. My new company, MachineryFind, has a colour laser so we are making good use of it. The committee has given me a budget for three pages of colour in each issue but you will find that this issue has six. Two are complimentary and the back cover is a paid advert from Ski Country. If you wish miNiZ to be in colour on all pages with pictures we would have to put the membership fee up (cost is 33.75 cents per page as opposed to about 8 cents for black & white) – let us know if you want to do this.

Talking of Membership Fees, all members who are paid up at 31st December will receive a free membership for 2002. Which means if you have a bill from Ian, please pay it. You have not had good value for money over the last two years but we intend to make up for that.

One 'bonus' that members who were paid up at the AGM (February) should have had from the club is the two Millennium Bottles. If you have not received these please let Ian Butcher know (60 Discovery Drive, Whitby, Wellington, NZ Junian.chopper@clear.net.nz Phone: 04 234 7349) Pictures of these are shown elsewhere in this issue but I wish to take this opportunity to thank Ian Butcher and Cheryl Sutton for their excellent designs.

The Ski Country revival is good news. Two collectors, Frank & Jacque Willburn, have taken over this company, including all the stock. They have at least one of every bottle made for Ski Country in stock, as well as some from Jim Beam, Hoffman, Lionstone, Wild Turkey, Cyrus Noble and others. They have started sending out a newsletter and restarted the Ski Country Club. It is free to join at present, although they are intending to charge (probably US\$15 for US members and US\$20 outside the US) from later in the year. They can be contacted at 302 Rancho Trail, Amarillo, TX 79108, USA or through their Web site, www.skicountrydecanter.com

The Ski Country decanters, and many other bottles, are certainly not cheap for our NZ members to buy with our current abysmal exchange rate. But you have to LOVE the quality.

This is your newsletter and, as usual, I exhort, implore, urge, encourage (and anything else you can think) you to get some articles into me. As much as possible I would like them electronically (email or on disk) but ALL contributions are welcome. If you believe that you are useless at writing articles, and few people are in reality, send me the facts and pictures and I will happily put it together.

Don't forget to let me know what you think – good or bad!

David Smith EDITOR

PS. You have no excuse for not being able to get in touch with me.

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COVER BOTTLES

Aren't these great bottles? I believe that these would look colourful even in black and white. They very much speak for themselves so I will not waste my time and yours describing them but I do have to tell you though that they are plastic.

I picked them up at the distillery on a recent trip to Marlborough. I also picked up 18 of each for club stock so they can be bought from Supplies Officer, Pam Fowler, RD2, Patea, Taranaki. The cost is \$3.50 each plus postage.

Don't forget that Pam has a large stock of bottles just waiting for you to buy. Some of these are at cost and we make a dollar or so on others, which keeps the membership fee down. She can supply a list or you can get it from the club #2 Web site at: www.voyager.co.nz/~dsmith/

Fifty Eight Dutch Gins - Pt. 3

from Bill Gueho

Here, as promised, are the final eighteen Dutch Gins from Bill Gueho's collection, except that there are twenty one! I realised that I had not scanned one of the photos as I was completing this article. So, let's call it Sixty One Dutch Gins and on with the show again.....

The first picture shows:

De Kuyper Oude Genever (yellow, green, black and white printed label). **Henkes Oude Genever** (plain white label with black writing and 'Henkes' in green). **Reseda Zeer Oude Genever** (plain white label with black printing). **Cooymans Zeer Oude Genever** (again a plain white labels with black printing).



Next we have:

R. Bitters Genever (gold and black label with a red, white and blue stripe). **Viking Oude Jenever Extra** (brown label with black and gold writing and a fine picture of a Viking ship). **Nolet 5 Zeer Oude Genever** (white label with red and black printing). **Schade & Buysing Echte Schiedamsche Jenever** (red label with yellow anchor and writing).



On this page we start with:

Vrijmoed's (how the hell can anyone pronounce a name like that) **Oude Genever** (black label with white and burgundy writing and burgundy highlights). **Wenneker Oude Proever Oude Genever** (white label with black and red writing). **Wenneker Oude Genever** (white label with black and red writing). **H. Bootz Very Old Genever Gin** (white label with black and red writing).



The next picture shows:

Prinsen en van Dijk Gele Rijder Citroen Genever (red and black printed white label). **Likeurstokerij en Wijnhandel Aal Bessen Jenever** (pale orange label with orange and black writing). **Blankenheym Prima Bessen Jenever** (white label with blue top and bottom, red berries, green leaves and blue & black writing). **Doijer & van Deventer Dubbel Gestookt Citroen Jenever** (colourful label with a yellow background).



The first picture on the next page shows:

Th. Kraakman & Zoon Oude Waag zeer Oude Genever (plain white label with red and black writing). **H. P. de Vreng Oude Amsterdam Oude Genever** (probably the newest bottle shown. This company runs a well known shop in Amsterdam *PACKED* with minis. The label is parchment type with black printing). **Schermer Jonge Jenever** (white label with green highlights and black writing). **Schermer's Extra Gezuiverde Oude Jenever** (1/20 litre, white label with red and black printing. I have two Delft houses with this same label).

Finally, we have: **Rector's Zeer Genever** (pale brown leather look label with black

writing). **Rector's Nummer 7 ZevenOude Genever** (orange and pale green label with black writing). **Warninks Roem Oude Genever** (cream label with gold border and highlights and black writing). **Schade & Buysing Zeer Oude Genever De Waarzegster** (black and white label with picture in brown). **Boll & Dunlop Bestevaer Oude Genever** (burgundy label with white highlights and black & white writing).



That's it, the remaining twenty five. Yes, after I started this article I found yet another un-scanned photo, so what started out as Fifty Eight Gins has ended up as Sixty Five. My thanks to Bill Gueho for his hospitality and for allowing me to take these photos.

David Smith

BOTTLES IN THE BLUEGRASS

or a Kiwi In Kentucky, by Ian Butcher

After having been to USA for the first time in 1997 I naturally wished to return and, as it had been 18 months since I had seen my Daughter and her Husband, it seemed like a good idea. In reality I wished to experience an American Thanksgiving and as I was going to USA, why not experience a Northern Hemisphere Christmas while I was there!! My Wife June, who does not particularly like to travel at any time, and who could see no rational reason for going from a warm New Zealand summer to a cold American winter, stayed home to "look after the business" (Her comments about that experience when I returned home again could be the subject of a whole new episode but as there are no miniature bottles featuring therein, I will not "bore/shock" you with that story,(it would be subject to censorship by our Editor!!)

In 1997 we had stayed in Los Angeles only overnight on the way to Kentucky and then had a week there on the way home. Frankly we were not impressed with the area where we stayed (Hollywood Boulevard) and we made the mistake of not making contact with any local Club members before we left New Zealand. This time I not only advised David Spaid I was coming prior to leaving New Zealand but was also fortunate enough to find he would actually be in town – I think he arrived back from a trip the same day I arrived So this time, enroute to Kentucky, I stayed 4 days in LA. It turned out to be quite an experience!!

As David Spaid was not available until Sunday I spent Friday and Saturday with other friends and got to experience an ice hockey match, (are the spectators there for the sport or the punchups??)!!! On Saturday a breakfast of pancakes at Dinah's (Cancel all meals and diets for that day!!). Then to a stamp show in Anaheim..

Sunday and David Spaid collected me from the hotel. I had \$us500 allocated to spend on bottles!! After visiting his home where I was rather stunned by his collection (I used my video so I could show those at Patea why I felt a bit like the student at the feet of the Master!!), and after enjoying lunch at a very nice foodbar with his wife Marcia, he took me to his store to sort out some bottles for me to purchase – talk about the kid in the sweet shop!! Oh! the temptation!! And I really enjoyed it!! I put aside a lot of old Bourbon bottles, some Whisky jugs and a few figurals for David to cost and so I would not have to carry them with me to Kentucky, we arranged for me to pick them up on my way back through LA. I was very fortunate that David had a number of Bourbons for sale, some of them quite old, and as bourbons are my "passion", I was absolutely delighted and very grateful for the opportunity and Davids' time . I will comment on the bottles at a later stage. Goodbye \$us500!

And so to Kentucky on the Monday of Thanksgiving week. This time from LA (where I got mixed up between the American Airlines and US Air terminals – after all "American" and "US" are the same thing to a dumb Kiwi!!), via Pittsburgh to Evansville, across the Ohio river to Henderson, Kentucky. On the Thursday we went to Jasper, Indiana to "celebrate" Thanksgiving with Son-in-Law, Tony's family. Including the obvious turkey the food was quite amazing – especially the deserts – Pumpkin pie and Pecan pie just two of them.

As a New Zealander, Thanksgiving is very much an American tradition and although the family all wore either Indian headdress or Pilgrim hats in commemoration of the original intention of Thanksgiving, it just seemed to me to be a good excuse for a family get together and a real big feed!! I am told that as many Americans fly to be home for Thanksgiving as for Christmas so the memory is still there even if in both cases the original intent is a little lost, stolen or just plain confused!

Prior to my leaving New Zealand my Daughter had told me that they planned to move from Henderson to Lexington immediately after Thanksgiving so I had planned my "itinerary" around visits to all the Distilleries in the eastern part of Kentucky, there being a number around Frankfort and Louisville and in reasonable proximity to Lexington. But somewhere that plan turned into a "Robbie Burns" (For those who don't recognise the expression -it starts off "The best laid plans of mice and men----"). I found myself during the first couple of weeks a little at a loose end being a little reluctant to drive my Daughter's car beyond Evansville and the nearest Distillery, (apart from the Kentucky Tavern Distillery at Owensboro - not open!), is at Bardstown, quite a distance in one day. To tell the truth I was a little reluctant to drive Daughter's car at all and I don't think she was thrilled by the prospect either!! But I did and without incident!!

Weekends, however, were quite exciting and the first one after Thanksgiving saw us travel to Kansas City, stopping briefly at St Louis. You hear and see lots about the Mississippi River when you live outside U.S.A, its width particularly, but my first sighting was at St Louis and there it is no wider than the Waikato!! A real fizzer!! But the Jefferson Memorial is a real feat of engineering!!

At Kansas City I was taken to my first live NFL - "Rugby"-American Style!! I had been taping the NFL on TV at home so I could "understand the game" and thus "discuss" it with my American Son-in-Law while I was there - how was I to know that he was into basketball and I probably knew more about the NFL teams than he did!! Arrowhead Stadium, after the "tailgate parties" prior to kick-off time (I always thought "tailgating" was getting too close to the car in front but in Kansas it's the barbeques in the car park), is a real experience with 70-80,000 red jerseyed fans all chanting for the Chiefs. You were not allowed to carry a video camera in but we managed to smuggle mine in and get some indication of the amazing afternoon. To make it really worthwhile, the Chiefs beat the Arizona Cardinals! It was also where I saw the first concentration of Christmas Lights, something that are not common here in New Zealand and I put the video camera to good use. Some of the newer estates at Kansas have quite high class homes so the Christmas lights are very spectacular.

Our next trip to Niagara Falls, was a lot longer - those of us used to motoring in New Zealand have no idea of distances when compared to motoring in the States! Crossing just one State can take most of the day even on the Interstate (Highways) where you can drive at 65-75 MPH. In Cincinnati we had dinner with Jim Crawford, then he escorted us to his home to view his collection and exchange bottles. I really appreciated his huge cellar/basement room - Jim is trying to obtain a bottle from every country. I have since sent him a Norfolk Island set to decrease those countries not represented and he has a very impressive collection very well displayed and I could have spent a lot longer looking at it. I did, however, swap some New Zealand Havill's meads for a number of bottles and some very nice figurals.

Next day on to Erie in Pennsylvania for the weekend, and then to Niagara. We stayed overnight and again we saw the amazing Christmas lights, both at Niagara and at a little place called Niagara on the Lake which is across the neck of land on Lake

Ontario. I had a real experience of generosity in a Canadian bottle store I visited. I just went in to see if they had any new miniatures and I purchased about 4 from a bin, all plastic. Then I noticed that a number of the large bottles had miniatures attached and they were different from those in the bin. I spoke to the senior lady and asked if it was possible to purchase the attached miniatures without the big bottles. She asked me where I was from and in advising her, I made it obvious why purchasing the large bottles was inappropriate. "No", she said, "you cannot purchase them separately." Long pause! I must have looked crestfallen but I was not really surprised – however, nothing ventured, nothing gained. Then she started taking the miniatures from the bottles "you can have them but we can't sell them". I actually came from the store with more "given" than purchased. All I had on me was an Air New Zealand pen so I gave her that to express my gratitude.

The following weekend we moved home from Henderson to Lexington with "yours truly" OC shift! I had boxed everything I could and "masterminded" the loading of the U-Haul truck so that nothing would move - I can report absolutely no breakages til Daughter dropped a vase when unpacking.

Finally I was in Lexington but 4 weeks behind "schedule" and it was getting very close to Christmas. Also the temperature had suddenly taken a turn downward after having been very mild, and in fact many record highs had been recorded during early December. I made contact with George Estes, a minis collector in Kentucky who I had met on my previous trip, as I had some two dozen New Zealand bottles for him. We got together and exchanged bottles and he then took me to a bottle store where they had a number of the Makers Mark "Special bottlings" - similar to the one I had collected on my last trip. I saw first hand how they have increased in value.

My daughter had a few days leave so we first went to the Makers Mark distillery and I was able to collect another of the "Specials" personally signed by the President of the Company, Bill Samuels and commemorating the bi-centenary of Louisville University in 1998. Like the first one I obtained in 1997 which had a green top, this one has a special top (black) and special label (red) and the signed version is called a "Slam Dunk" as the wax covers right down the neck and top of the bottle. My daughter had already purchased the "ordinary" version available in bottle stores – same label and black top but the wax covered only the neck so I came home with two of them. I also purchased a couple of their Bourbon tumblers as they also have the characteristic red Makers Mark wax on their base.

Next we went to visit the Wild Turkey (Austin Nicholls) Distillery. This time we were able to do a tour of the plant and it being December 23rd, and rather cool –10c, we were the only ones "touring". An interesting tour where we actually saw them filling "Single Barrel" bourbons - surprise, they were actually using just one barrel at a time! I was also able to purchase a second Wild Turkey miniature, the no7 "Wild Turkey with Red Fox" (I got the no9 "Wild Turkey and Baby Bears" on my previous trip). We also met the Distiller who signed a Wild Turkey miniature for me (Unfortunately empty because they have no license to sell from the Distillery)

Next day, Christmas Eve, we visited the Ancient Age Distillery at Frankfort on the way to spend Christmas in Jasper. Despite the day (and the Temperature of –11c) we were made most welcome and taken on a tour of the Distillery by a young lady initially doing a very good impersonation of an Eskimo – she was a little hard to see under the jacket she was wearing! This Distillery not only makes Ancient Age but also Blantons and another I had never seen, Rock Hill Farms, their single barrel version. All these

various types made were in a display cabinet in their "showroom" and it was there I noticed Rock Hill Farms, not just as a large bottle but also a **miniature**!! When I enquired I found they were also unable to sell from the premises but they directed me to a bottle store in Frankfort. On going to the store, they had never heard of it but directed us to another store – alas the same story but there the proprietor looked up his stock book and could find no listing – It seemed I would be unable to obtain Rock Hill Farms.

And so to Christmas in America!! I had been almost overwhelmed by the amount of goods available in the malls – there is so much stuff the decisions must be harder. I also found the malls very hot after the cold outside and the problem of having to have lots of clothes on outside but a lot less inside even the malls. I don't know if my Son-in-Law's family is typical but the number of presents under their tree was again, rather overwhelming even for a large family. Christmas was not unlike Thanksgiving in the amount of food on the table and one "tradition" I thought very friendly was to go visit a number of friends - but that may have been just because Tony and Viv were only in town a short time!

A couple of days later it was time to leave Kentucky. I had not had the opportunity to go to as many bottlestores as on my previous visit but I had managed to accumulate about 50 bottles and figurals, thanks to Jim Crawford and George Estes and to those stores where I had found new bottles. I also had a lot more baggage than when I arrived but they don't seem to worry about the weight of luggage internally in USA. I had an overnight stop in Los Angeles so David Spaid delivered the bottles I had purchased from him to the hotel. I had the interesting task of packing them into already crammed cases – fortunately for me he left one large box at home.

So what did I come home with from my trip. I had some 60 new (to my collection) bourbons. I decided these bottles were too good not to be displayed as were the new figurals and the 20+ new jugs so I rearranged two of my cabinets, giving me an extra one for both Bourbons and Whiskies. I was really delighted to obtain some of the old bourbons as featured in James Triffon's book including Brown-Forman; Calvert "Special"; Carstairs "Harmony"; Crab Orchard; Glenmore's "Kentucky Tavern"; Mint Springs; Old Quaker; Old Stagg; Schenley's "Belmont" & "Black Label" and Old Overholt Rye among others. I also obtained several Cyrus Noble ceramics; a number of Rutherford Whisky jug sets and a quite a number of more current bourbons, vodkas and tequilas. I did manage to obtain the elusive Rock Hill Farms single barrel bourbon by actually writing to the company, thanking them for their hospitality and explaining that we had tried to locate the miniature without success – could they possibly send me one? They did. In fact they sent me 6 so I was able to give the excess to other members of the club - that is what I call "Real Nice People" as they would say in Kentucky.

So the plan is to return in April 2001 so that I can visit Daughter and Son-in-Law again but more important, so I can attend the annual St Louis bottle show.

Afterword

Ian did indeed attend the St. Louis show, as did your editor. It was Ian's first time at such an event and I had to scrape his jaw off the floor and stop him drooling (not a pretty picture is it?). Both of us had a great time and picked up lots of good bottles.

I am sure that Ian will share the experience with you in the next miNiZ.

When is a Mini not a Mini?

By David Smith

Over the years my collection has changed considerably. Like most mini collectors I started off by collecting anything I could lay my hands on. Fairly early on I realised that I would have to specialise or the whole thing would get out on hand. So I specialised – and it got out of hand anyway!

One of my specialities is micro-minis, of which I have over 2700. Many collectors will only collect 'genuine' miniatures, that is, those with liquid in them. Some of the liquid filled micro-miniatures contain the genuine article but most contain coloured water, or in the case of the Cokes, Coke syrup. I have always been happy to collect anything that is true to size and label, regardless of whether liquid filled or not. This has led me into several 'cross over' sub-collections. These include bottle and can shaped lighters and openers, bottle shaped pens, tape measures, coin and pill holders, lipsticks and even a Guinness bottle shaped razor. Again, I only collect them if the size fits in with my micro-mini collection.

Pictured first are two Calvert Reserve American Blended Whiskey. The left one is a tape measure and the right a coin holder. Both are plastic and both from the US. They date from 1960's. Next is a Coca Cola lighter which I got from Holland in 1999 but which I suspect comes from the east. The Cola keyring is another 1999 lighter, which came from China. Both colas are metal.



The next photo shows a mixture of openers and lighters. From the left we have Captain Morgan Black Label Rum. This is an opener from the 1960's and was probably given away in the US. It is plastic with metal innards, whereas the others are all metal. Second is a Cellar Ghost opener from New Zealand. This is an example of an opener made for a retailer, rather than a liquor company, and was

given away in the late 1950's. The middle bottle is Bulimba Gold Top Light Bitter Pale Ale. It is a 1950's lighter from Australia. The VB Bitter Ale is another Australian bottle, this time an opener from the 1960's. The final bottle, Drewrys Beer, is a 1950's lighter from the US.



The next photograph shows five lipsticks and an eraser. The lipsticks speak for themselves. All are from the 1950's or early 1960's and were given away in the US and Canada. On the right is the eraser. This is a mock Coke bottle from France.



Next up we have three ceramic pill boxes; Miller, Coca Cola and Jack Daniels. These come from China and were bought in the US in 1999. I recently acquired a Miller Light can but they are not easy to find. The Jim Beam came from the distillery in Kentucky. It is simply a hollow ceramic with an open base.



The final photo shows a few of my cans. The first two are lighters. They were bought in the US in 1999 and come from Taiwan or China. The three beers on the right are all openers. These date from about 1954 and were given away in the US.



I will show you some of my other 'special' ones next issue.

Finally, if you have anything like this to sell or swap I could be interested. I can be contacted at dsmith@voyager.co.nz

Fragrant Inspiration and Enlightened Enjoyment Over the Ages



文化

Wine and
Chinese Culture
Long-term historical and
cultural background for the

Although wine drinking is a common cultural heritage enjoyed by various peoples world-wide, the wine drinking culture of each people is different. The origins of fermenting and drinking wine in China go far back in time. Our Chinese ancestors either used wine as a libation to their forefathers to express reverence, or to enjoy by themselves while writing poetry or prose, or to toast their relatives and friends during a feast. Without a doubt, wine occupies an important place in the culture and life of the Chinese people.

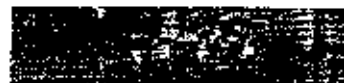
Wine was intimately connected with most Chinese men of letters. It was also an inseparable part of the life of ordinary Chinese people. The banquets of ancient emperors and kings could not take place without it. Every sort of wine vessel thus became an important kind of sacrificial object. For the most part, grain were used to ferment wine throughout China in ancient times. Thus, whether or not the grain harvest was bountiful became a criterion by which successive governments decided whether to lift their ban on wine making or how heavy a wine tax to levy. Over the ages wine gradually became directly linked to the daily life and tax burden of the people.

(Right) Wine adds zest to a Chinese feast - "A Banquet for Literati" painted by the Sung dynasty emperor Hui Hsung of the 12th century.



But drinking too much wine and engaging in merriment could lead to debauchery or loss of composure, harming oneself and others. Thus, some with an ethical frame of mind spoke of the virtues of wine drinking and devised certain teachings on self-restraint, advising people from drinking too much. Others with a medical frame of mind were particular

about the medicinal properties of wine, and produced medicinal wines or used wine as a tonic.



Furthermore, China's territory was vast and its resources, abundant. There were some differences in the sorts of crops, quality of water, and brewing techniques of each area, hence an abundance of all manner of outstanding wines with regional features. Chinese men of letters, after tasting a wine, might record its brewing technique or write all sorts of wine poems or monographs. Wine thus enriched the colorful life of the Chinese people.

There are various accounts regarding the origin of wine in ancient Chinese books, but most of them are not believable history. The story of "Tu Kang Makes Wine," for example, is probably not credible in a historical sense. Although folk legend regards Tu Kang as the man to first make wine, as the God of Wine, such legends nevertheless possess a folkloric significance and should not be ignored.



(Left) An ancient wine vessel decorated with animal faces - an early Shang dynasty relic from more than one millennium B.C.

As early as in the Shang dynasty of the 18th through 11th centuries B.C., the use of grain to make wine had become widespread. Inscriptions on bones and tortoise shells as well as bronze inscriptions preserve many records of Shang-era people worshipping their ancestors with wine, and of the fact that wine drinking was very popular at the time. For example, a Shang-era winery site was discovered among recent archaeological unearthings.

The development of Chinese wine-making techniques accelerated after the 3rd century A.D. Each part of the nation used different grains to produce yeast. This not only led to an increase in the varieties of wine, it also indicated progress in the technology of yeast production. Such a tradition of grain-fermented wine is particular feature of Chinese wine.

(Right) A portrait of the 8th century Tang poet Li Bai - the most renowned wine immortal in Chinese history.

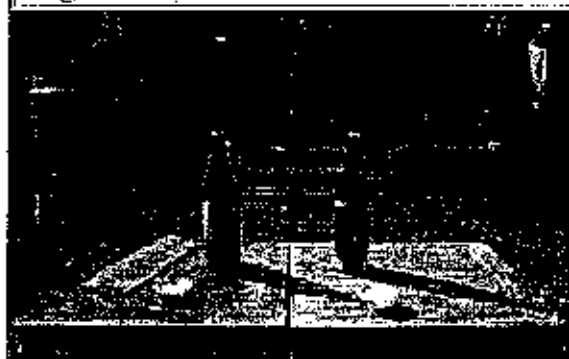


There are many Chinese historical accounts of literati, poets, and knights of the medieval Wei, Chin, and Tang dynasties who were hearty drinkers-one of the various connections between wine and Chinese culture worthy of note. We may also infer an intimate connection between the academic thinking and social practices of the time. Although this relationship between Chinese intellectuals and wine did not originate in the Wei and Chin dynasties, we cannot ignore the fact that

wine occupies a prominent place in, or even accounted for almost all of, the lives of the Seven Sages of the Bamboo Grove, a group of well-known literati of the Chin dynasty.

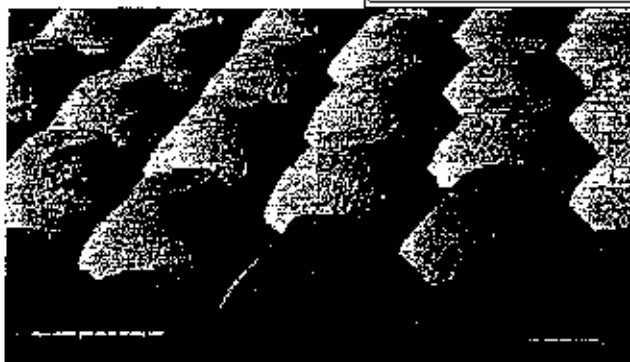
There are many amusing anecdotes from Chinese wine-drinking culture. For example, the Chinese of ancient times were very particular about first having a zest for wine while drinking before one could drink to the full. Tao Yuan-ming, the prominent Chin-era poet, had the greatest zest for wine. He could drink alone, brew his own wine, and partake of the leisurely enjoyment of meticulous wine tasting. His zest for wine was quite different from that of most Wei or Chin literati who enjoyed "doing nothing and drinking to their hearts' content." He successfully combines wine literati creation, thus "his poems are imbued with wine, and there was poetry form his wine."

In addition to flowers and fruits, wine is also an indispensable oblation in sacrificial and other religious rites.



In a detailed description by Tu Fu, a famous Tang-era poet, the eight renowned "wine immortals" of the Tang dynasty are each depicted as having charming inebriated postures and a full complement of wine drinking zest. This led later generations to romantic flights of fancy about the links among wine, poetry, and literati.

These earthen pots are for brewing wine.



In addition to a zest for wine, drinkers had to have stamina in order to drink to the full. Even if they had the requisite stamina, they had to be able to hold their liquor:

Examples of celebrated literati of the Han and Wei dynasties who could drink *tan*, or one *tan* at a time are too numerous to mention.



(Left) Good wine should be bottled in an elegant container.

During a feast, playing finger-guessing games with excited shouts much like battle cries-was called a wine battle. The opposing guests, competing like two armies facing each other on the battlefield, played finger-guessing and other drinking games, such as thinking up new songs at the table, composing impromptu poems, singing in unison, dancing, and the like. All the these became amusements that added excitement to banquets.

From wine making techniques we can glimpse a bit of the wisdom of ancient Chinese; from the relationship between wine and literati or knights, as well as various writings relating to wine, we can spot a trace of the accomplishments of intellectuals in ancient times; from policy measures prohibiting wine making and measures levying wine tax, we can ferret certain links between wine and national taxes; and from such concepts as the virtues of wine drinking and such customs as playing various games during wine drinking, we can ascertain the cultural concepts and ideology of traditional Chinese people. Wine is an important segment of dietary culture, and its significance in Chinese culture should not be overlooked.

(Right) Plum blossoms, orchids, bamboo, and chrysanthemums - described by people as the "Four Gentlemen" - are painted separately on these four jugs to give an air of refined sophistication to the act of drinking wine.



The period development in the Republic of China on Taiwan over recent decades had led to enormous changes in its political, economic, societal, and cultural landscape. Not only have traditional wine-making techniques and drinking habits continued to find favor, imported wines have also gained acceptance. The range of wine choices when dining friends and relatives had widened. This has not only enriched the pleasure of drinking, it has also made the wine-drinking culture of Chinese people more colorful.

MILLENNIUM BOTTLES



Two bottles were produced by the club to recognise that the exact date of the Millennium was open to debate as either 1999/2000 or 2000/2001. (History says that it was sometime during the mid or early 1990's as the 5th century monk who calculated Christ's birth got it wrong!)

The 1999/2000 label was designed by Ian Butcher. It depicts the setting of the sun in one century and the rising of the sun in the

Next. The 2000/2001 label is from Cheryl Sutton. It depicts the rising of the sun over the Southern Alps in the new millennium.

The following are nothing to do with the Millennium, except to say that it would have been an excellent idea on the night!

They are both recent New Zealand bottles. The one on the right was on sale last year and the one on the left this year. I much prefer the original but am happy to have both – what do you think Jim? (I shouldn't put private jokes in but I couldn't resist that one!)

If you find any new bottles PLEASE share them with me so that I can let the other members know – that is what the club is all about.

David Smith



COMMITTEE

The following members were elected to the committee at the AGM last February in Patea.

President	Colin Ryder	20 Prospect Terrace, Johnsonville, Wellington rydercj@xtra.co.nz 04 478 4391 Fax: 04 478 4359 Mobile: 025 547 688
VP South Island	Robin Mellish	66 Rudds Road, Christchurch 03 389 9706
VP Northern	Erica Mulder	37 Park Road, Titirangi, Auckland erica.mulder@paradise.net.nz 09 817 7499
Secretary	Vacant	PLEASE, have we a volunteer?
Treasurer	Ian Butcher	60 Discovery Drive, Whitby, Wellington Junian.chopper@clear.net.nz 04 234 7349
Publicity Officer	Colin Todd	16 Murano Place, Chatswood, North Shore City 09 419 0859
Supplies Officer	Pam Fowler	RD2, Patea, Taranaki Phone & Fax: 06 273 4184
miNiZ Editor	David Smith	86 Rawhiti Road, Pukerua Bay, Wellington dsmith@voyager.co.nz 04 239 9536

DATE, TIME & PLACE

June 17 th	2.00pm	David Smith's (address above)
July 15 th	2.00pm	Ian Butcher's (address above)
July 15 th	2.00pm	David Fretwell's, 61 Port Hills Road Heathcote, Christchurch
August 19 th	2.00pm	Ken Chin's, 29 Norton Park Avenue, Fairfield, Lower Hutt
September 9 th	2.00pm	Gary Passfield's, 3a Wetlands Grove, Bexley, Christchurch
September 16 th	12.30pm	Pot Luck Lunch @ Marj Lynch's, 51 Maxwell Avenue, Wanganui
October 17 th	2.00pm	156 Te Moana Road, Waikanae
November 4 th	2.00 pm	Robin Mellish's (address above)
November 18 th	12.30pm	Pot Luck Lunch @ Sharyn Cummings', RD5, Taihape (phone 06 388 1561 for directions)
December	Christmas Function – Venue and date to be advised	
January 20 th	12.30pm	Barbecue at Stuart Goodman's, 21 Horopito Road, Waikanae
February	TBA	AGM and Weekend away at Patea

As we have no secretary, the person who is holding the meeting should phone or email all the local members a week in advance to remind them.

I still have no notification of meetings in the north of the North Island. It's fun meeting other collectors and seeing their collections. How about YOU holding a meeting?

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