

Issue 60

Autumn 2002



MINIIZ

THE NEWSLETTER OF PORT NICHOLSON MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



Australasia's only Miniature Bottle Club

EDITORIAL & COVER BOTTLE

miNiZ is here again and once again it's not late as I have managed to get this done before I go away on a business trip for 6 weeks.

If you think that this miNiZ is a bit on the thin side, you are right. This is a David Smith newsletter as I have had nothing from anyone else. I **MUST** have some input from other members if miNiZ is to continue. This is your newsletter and, as usual, I exhort, implore, urge, encourage you (and anything else you can think of short of physical violence – and that may become an option soon!!!) 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.

I again had very positive feedback from members on the last issue – a big thanks to all those who took the trouble to write. Don't forget to let me know what you think – good or bad! We are still working on getting more colour pages but the current budget only allows for the cover and three inside pages in colour, so that's what you've got.

Now for the goodies!

FRUITS FOR SALE

The 5 bottles shown on the cover are some of the nicest I have ever seen. They are hand blown glass with hand crafted fruits attached. They are from France and contain various flavours of Eau de Vie (fruit brandy).

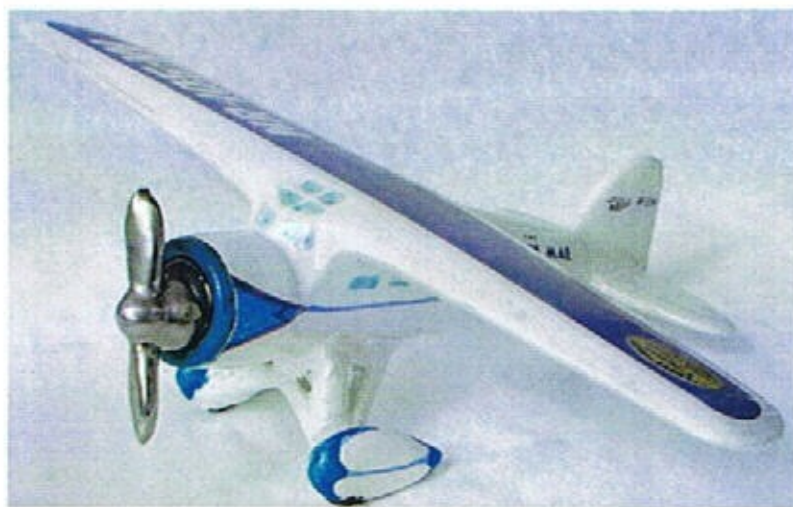
The Taupo based company that brought these into NZ thought that they had ordered 60 sets but got 600. The asking price was \$65 per bottle but, for an unknown reason, they were not selling many at this price! The price has been dropped to \$18.95 but we can get them for \$16 if we order a number of sets. Contact Club President, Colin Ryder, (20 Prospect Terrace, Johnsonville, Wellington. 04 478 4391 rydercj@xtra.co.nz) if you want a set but do not send any money at this stage. Do it NOW as we want to get the order in.

Later in miNiZ you will see that we also have two jugs for sale – get in quick (send this order to Colin also) as we only have a few of each which Jim Crawford brought over for us. Talking of which, it was nice to catch up with members Jim & Nancy Crawford from Cincinnati on their recent NZ visit. They got the opportunity to meet a number of the NZ members and see their collections. Surely this is one of the joys of the hobby, almost anywhere you go in the world you can get to meet some locals via their collections.

David Smith EDITOR

PS. You have no excuse for not being able to get in touch with me. minidavid@xtra.co.nz
86 Rawhiti Road, Pukerua Bay, Wellington, New Zealand
Fax: 04 384 7055 - Phone: 04 239 9536 - Work Phone: 04 914 2805 - Mobile: 025 275 7712

Winnie Mae



On the left we have the Winnie Mae mini by Famous Firsts. This contains 1/10th pint of 24 proof Brandy Sauce. I have seen this displayed a couple of times by hanging it with fishing line from the ceiling. Robin Mellish simply leaves this one on his bar.



So why make a mini of this particular aircraft? The second photo shows the real thing and the photo and following information comes from the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

Winnie Mae was a special Lockheed Model 5C Vega flown by famed aviator Wiley Post. It completed two around-the-world record flights and a series of special high-altitude substratospheric research

flights. It was named for the daughter of its original owner, F. C. Hall, who hired Post to pilot the plane.

With the consent of his employer, Post entered the Winnie Mae in the National Air Races and piloted the plane to the first of its records, now inscribed on the side of its fuselage: 'Los Angeles to Chicago 9 hrs. 9 min. 4 sec. Aug. 27, 1930.'

On June 23, 1931, Post, accompanied by Harold Gatty as navigator, took off from New York to make a world circuit in record time. The first stop was Harbor Grace, Newfoundland. From there, the fourteen-stop course included England, Germany, Russia, Siberia, Alaska, Canada, thence to Cleveland, and finally to New York on July 1, 1931. The circuit was completed in 8 days, 15 hours, and 51 minutes. Halls admiration for his pilot manifested itself in the gift of the Winnie Mae to Post.

David Smith

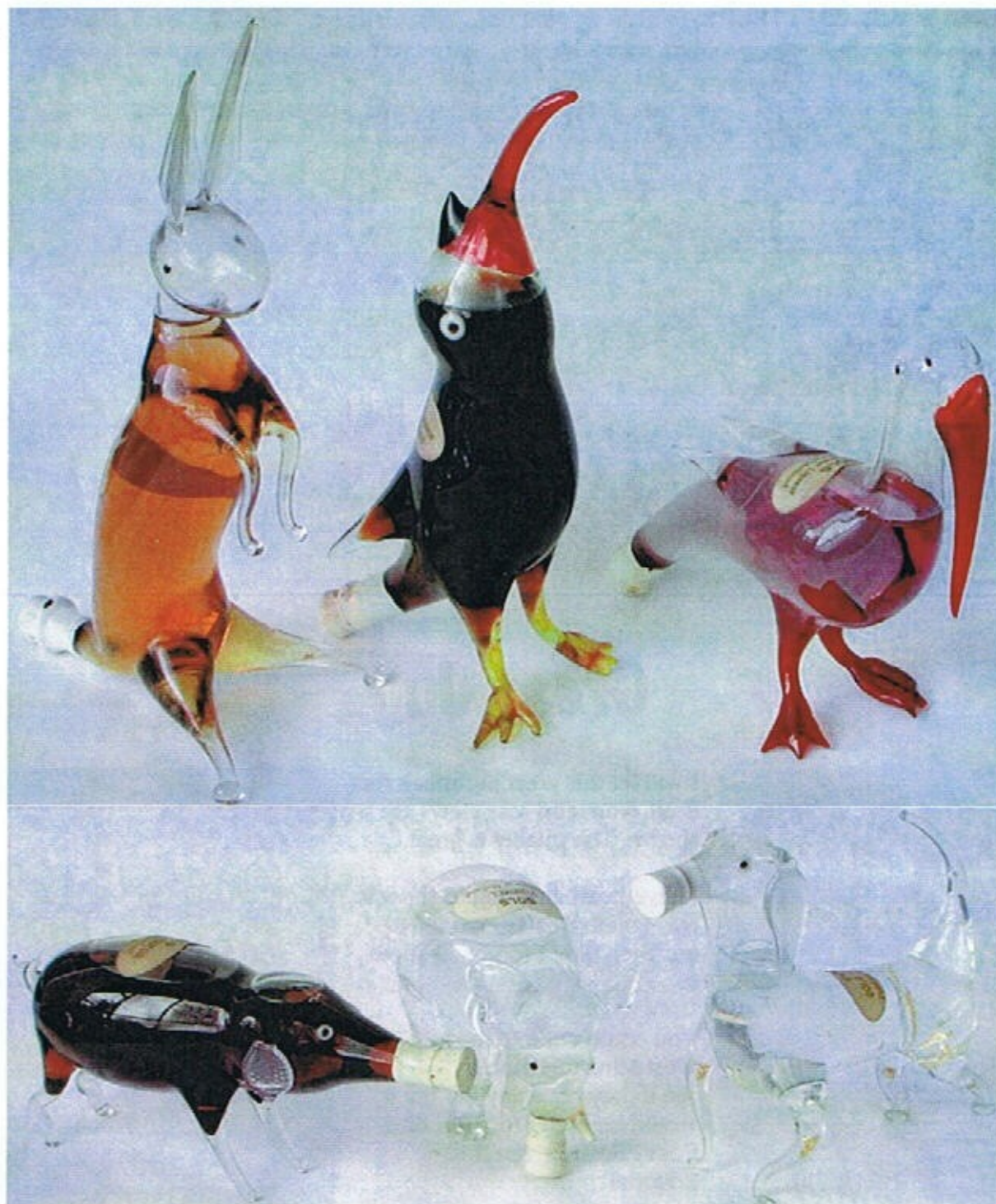
Bols Blown Glass Animals



Whilst visiting Robin Mellish last September I took the opportunity to photograph a number of his bottles. Shown below are 17 blown glass animals, all from an older set than those that were sold in NZ in the 1970's and 80's. Can anyone tell us how old these ones are?

The contents of these bottles varies from batch to batch so I will not bother to tell you what is in them. The first picture shows a bird, a penguin and a kangaroo and the second two different birds. The bird, middle left, has red feet and the other three birds have orange/brown feet. All the beaks are orange/brown and the bird, middle right, has a green crest. The last picture on the previous page shows a fox and a seal.

Below we have a rabbit, hummingbird? and pelican. Both the birds have red beaks and the

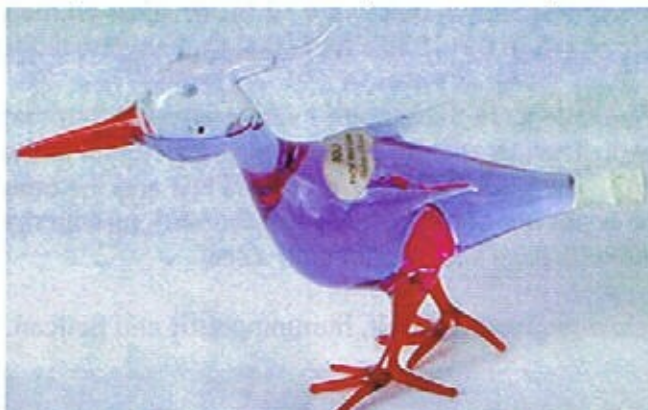


pelican red feet also. The hummingbird has orange/brown feet. The last picture on the previous page shows a pig, elephant and dog.

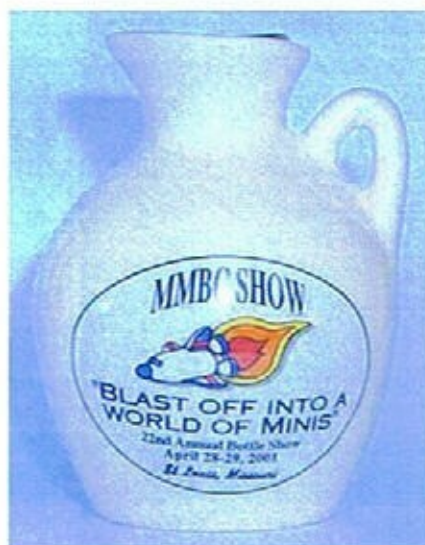
To the right we have yet another bird, I have no idea what type. Both the feet and beak are red.

The final picture shows a toucan, with a fine red beak and orange/brown feet. This is flanked by a rhinoceros and a fish.

David Smith



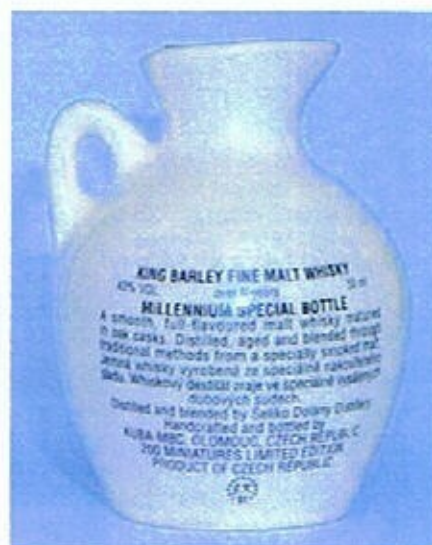
Great Jug



I will let this great jug speak for itself, front and rear views are shown. The quality is great.

I have been meaning to show it two you in the last two miNiZ but each time I forgot all about it.

You could write to the Mid-West Miniature Bottle Club to see if they have any left but it would be easier to order one from PNMBC – see the Editorial.



Peterson Bottle Organ

<http://www.petersontuners.com/bbo/bbo.html>



If you want to hear something completely different check this site out.

The answers to all the most asked questions are:

Yes, the sound is actually produced by blowing air over the tops of real bottles.

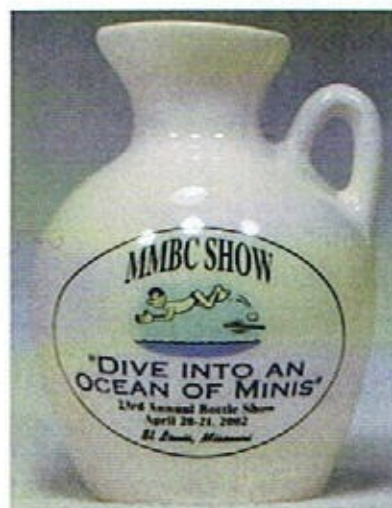
No, you don't have to keep re-tuning the bottles due to evaporation. (They use a mineral oil.)

Yes, you can play it with a keyboard OR as a MIDI device.

YES, whether it's "Ninety-Nine Bottles Of Beer On The Wall" or a Bach fugue... It Sounds Fantastic! (err... not that fantastic – editor)

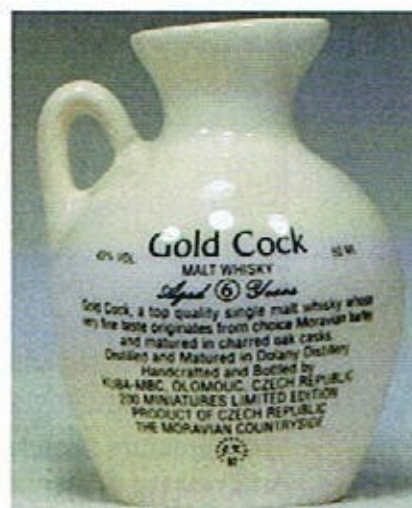
A number have been made. The one shown was commissioned by Guinness Deutschland for the 2001 Frankfurt Music Messe.

Another Great Jug



Facing is the 2001 Jug and here we have the 2002 Show Bottle. This is an equally impressive piece of pottery and very timely as most of you will receive this mini just before the MMBC show on 20/21st April.

Our NZ and Australian members can buy both jugs from the club at NZ \$25 each. See the Editorial for ordering details. Will members elsewhere in the world please order direct from the Mid-West Miniature Bottle Club – or better still, buy one at the show.



As Seen On Ebay #1

I hope to make this column the first of a regular feature. For those of you who are not aware, Ebay is a giant, Web based, auction. It runs continuously with several million items for sale at any given time. It is at www.ebay.com

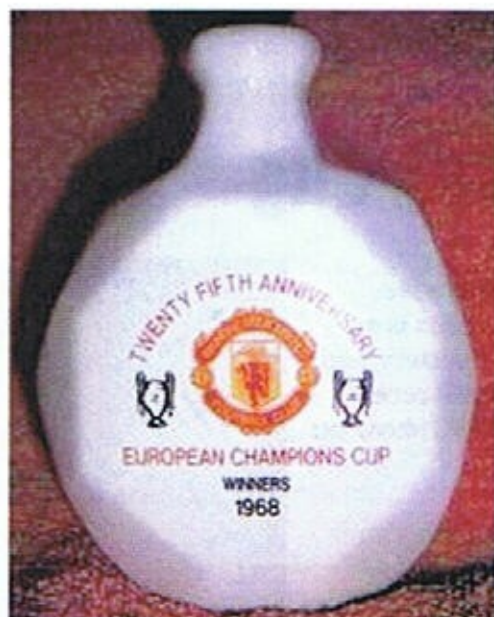


I will be taking the photographs from the Web so the quality will be variable but as this column will bring you pictures of minis that you may not get the chance to see elsewhere I believe that a lesser quality sometimes will be well justified.

I know that quite a number of club members bid on Ebay. If you do see anything unusual please either save a copy of the photo, description and final price for me or just copy and email me the item number and I will do the rest.

On the left is a very unusual bottle. It is an ermine, which is a stoat with its snowy white winter fur. Ermine is used extensively for trimming on royal robes. The animal usually has a black tip to the tail and this is a real feature on ermine trimmed garments. The bottle was made in the USSR and stands 184mm (7.25 inches) tall. The label is not shown but I suspect that it is one of a series

put out by Chiisai Bin a few years ago. If so I have a hedgehog in the same series. It sold for US\$27.



Above we see a Ford ("Big Blue") Tractor. It is 146mm (5.75 inches) long and from a limited edition produced in 1983 by Pacesetter. The wheels turn. It sold for US\$30.

The miniature Scotch whisky decanter was made in 1993 to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of Manchester United winning the European Champions Cup in 1968. 100 of these were on sale on Ebay using the 'Dutch Auction' system. In a Dutch

Auction there are multiple identical items and all winning bidders pay the same price – the lowest successful bid at the end of the auction. A number sold for £5 each.



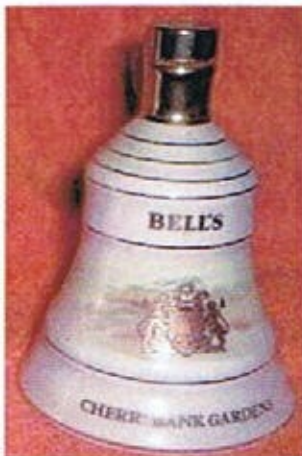
To the left we see four replica Cokes made for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. They are part of a series that was to encompass all the Olympic Nations. Apparently only two others were made before the series had to be withdrawn, presumably for copyright reasons.

The left one is red with white squares. It features Tin Tin and represents Belgium. Next to it

is the New Zealand bottle. It is black with a woven brown band. Various silver symbols are on the black, including a Kiwi. Can anyone tell me which countries the other two represent? The right hand bottle is white with what may be colourful birds. The one next to it is multi coloured and obviously represents an island nation. All are 106mm (4.2") tall.



Above we have four minis from Gagliano of Verona, Italy. These are not seen very often, except for the elephant. Strangely you will note that the elephant fetched the largest amount. All contain 25cc of Elixir China and are about 114mm (4.5") tall.



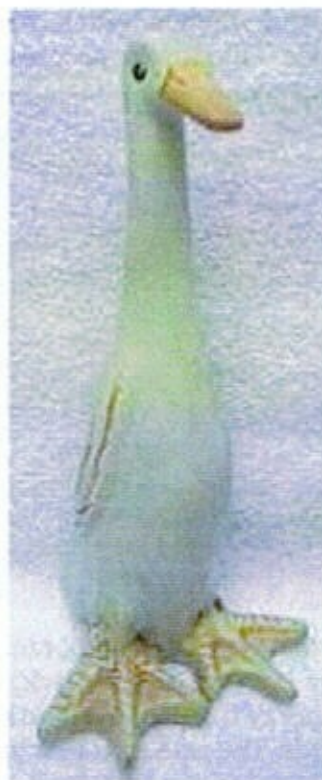
The Mardi Gras couple sold for US\$9.99, the Native Warrior with shield sold for US\$11.10, the Man On a Burro sold for US\$11.60 and, finally, the Elephant sold for US\$20.51.

On the left we see a very rare and lovely miniature Wade whisky decanter made for Bells Cherrybank Gardens in Perth (Scotland not Australia). This was sold for £133. The Bells Charles & Diana miniature whisky decanter, as shown on the next page, failed to sell first time around for the minimum bid of £300 and second time around for a minimum bid of £275. Approx. 1000 of these miniatures were made and given to the staff of Bell's and it was never available for sale to the public. Another one was put up for sale and it sold for £280.



Both these Bells decanters were full and sealed.

On the right we see the Forcoll Goose from Argentina. This mini is 152mm (6") tall. I have quite a number of Forcoll minis in my collection but have never seen this one before. It sold for US\$16.01.



The Original Carlsbader Cordial-Medoc mini decanter is another bottle I know nothing about, except that it stands 89mm (3.5") tall. It failed to sell for a minimum bid of US\$7. At least one NZ collector, marj. Lynch, has one of these.



I have never seen the Schildt Bum (as in tramp or hobo) mini before. In fact I have never even heard of the company. I understand that it was made in 1977. Can anyone tell me anything else about it? It sold for US\$5.50.

MBC's Savemost Man, shown at the bottom, dates from 1973. MBC was David Spaid's label. It sold for a paltry US\$5.24.



Next we have 3 jugs from Mohawk. Mohawk will be well known to our US members but few New Zealanders will have seen these. There were a huge range of them made in the 1930's.

They had different mixes of shape, colour and contents. These sold for US\$16 for the three. One thing to look for with Mohawk jugs is the mark of the pottery manufacturer. Many Mohawk jugs were made by a firm

called Uhl. Uhl pottery is currently very sought after and these pieces may have fetched US\$60 each, with or without the labels, if they had been made by Uhl.

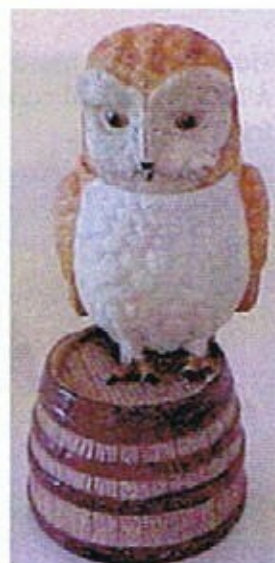




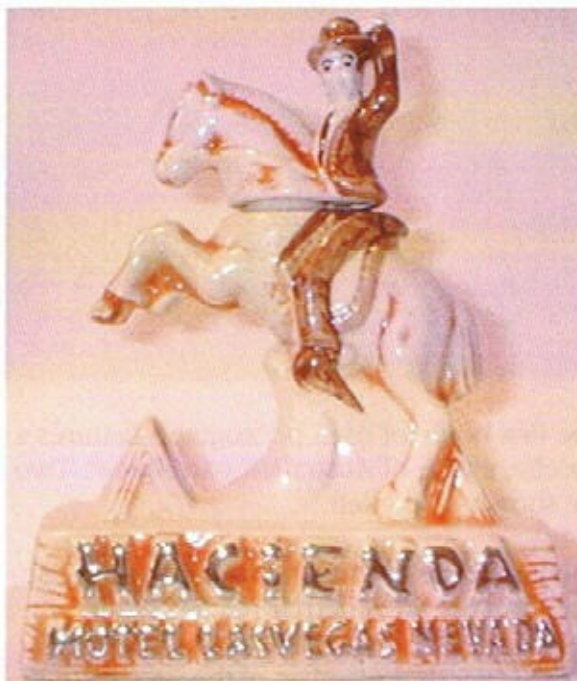
The C & J Bourbon "First National Bank" mini decanter is a bottle that I have seen for sale at the US shows but has probably not been seen in NZ. It failed to sell for the asking minimum bid of US\$24.99.

Ezra Brooks "Old Ezra Owl" mini decanter was made in 1980. It sold for US\$10.50.

Up for auction in late March was another old MBC figure. This man on a horse was made for the Hacienda Hotel, Las Vegas. It is



140mm (5.5 inches) tall and 100mm (4 inches) long. The bottle was empty but it was otherwise in excellent condition.



On the bottom is written, JOE KAUFENBERG, 1974 LIMITED EDITION LIQUOR BOTTLE, MODEL B. HASENSTAB.

It sold for US\$29.

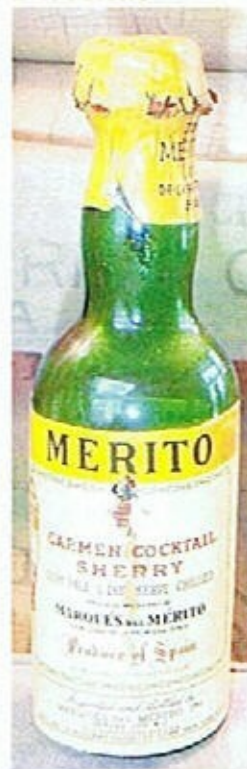
Just to prove that you can at least try to sell anything on Ebay here we have a Marques Del Merito Carmen Cocktail

Sherry. It is described as Very Pale and Dry and the fact that it says Serve Chilled gives you a pretty good clue as to the quality, or lack thereof! The label is stained. However, that is not what is remarkable. Nor is it remarkable that it failed to sell at all as few collectors collect wines. It is remarkable that someone thought that they could sell it, empty, for a minimum bid of US\$6.95 + \$2.75 postage!

As I said at the start of this article, I hope to make this column the first of a regular feature. Many of you are in a position to help and enrich miNiZ – please do.

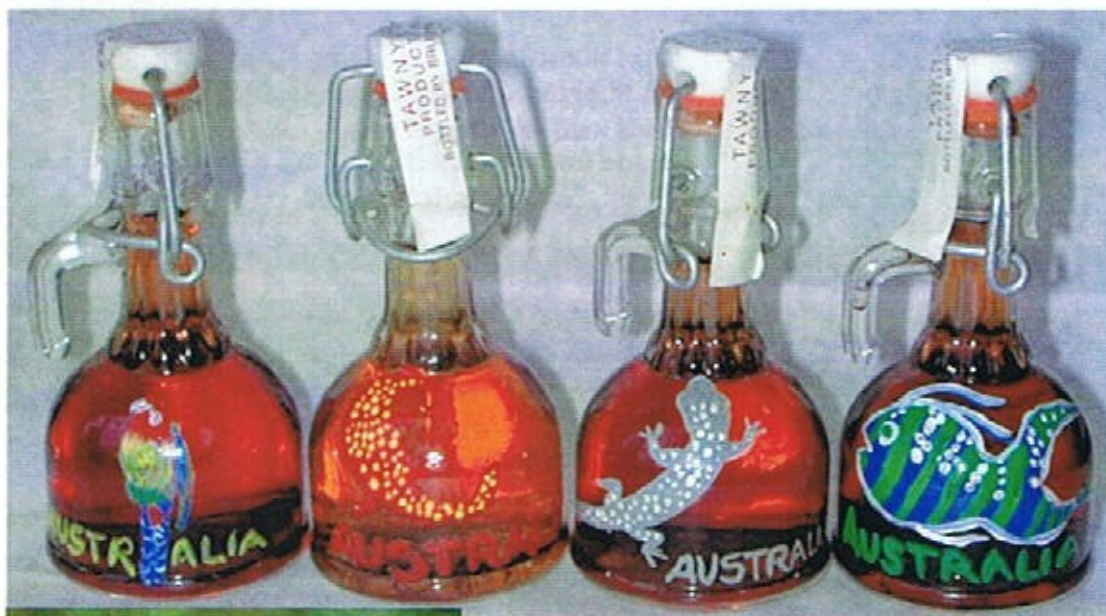
Hope you enjoyed these – more next time.

David Smith



Hand Painted Aussie Minis

Here are eight hand painted bottles from Robin Mellish's collection. They are from Australia and all contain Bruno Tawny Port. The top four are round and the bottom four are square.

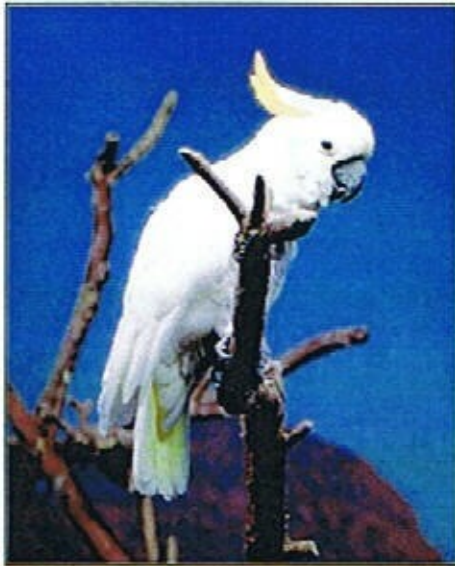


The first bottle of each photograph features a Rosella, a type of Australian parroquet. Two are shown on the left.

The last bottle of each shows a colourful fish, one from the great barrier reef no doubt.

There is another member of the parrot family shown on the second bottle below. This is a Sulphur Crested Cockatoo. This bird is very common in Australia if you get out of the cities.





I will never forget my first sight of them. They travel in large flocks, although you do see solitary birds as shown above.

Finally we have a Goanna on three of the other bottles and as shown on the right. Goanna is a generic name for a number of different types of Australian Monitor Lizards.

David



Ski Country Submarine

1800 minis were produced of the Ski Country Submarine in 1976 for the U.S. Submarine Veterans of World War II. Warpage during firing prevented its being made in a larger size. The picture came from the Ski Country web site (www.skicountrydecanter.com), so please forgive the quality. It is difficult to display because it is so wide but it is one of those 'hard to find' minis as more than miniature collectors want to get their hands on them.



Old Hokonui

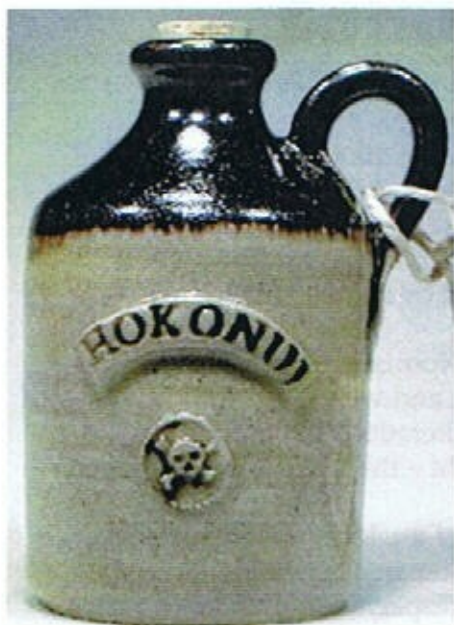


I have written of Old Hokonui before and most of you will know the history, so I will not repeat that again. Not shown are a, genuine, green flask version; one made for a 1967 conference, which probably contains Long John Scotch; and two put out by Wilsons.

These four bottles are in Robin Mellish's collection. The one on the right is the one we believe is genuine. There are at least 6 collectors with this bottle and it is identical to the full size bottle in the police museum.

The next one across is an obvious fake. Note the neck label – this is a Bells bottle. The far left bottle is also clearly a fake. The label is hand drawn and the bottle is of a type that was used by McWilliams and probably held Sherry. Which leaves the second from the right. This bottle is old and the label is the same as the genuine one, apart from the black border. No others of this type have turned up so it may be a 'one off' but not necessarily – we may have a new 'old' bottle.

This article was written several months ago and was dropped from both the last two miNiZ due to lack of space. Which was rather fortuitous when you see what I have to show you on the next page.



Above is a new Hokonui Jug that has been issued by the Hokonui Moonshine Museum in Gore. To the right is the leaflet that is attached to it. The other side of the leaflet gives a brief history of Hokonui.....

The illicit distillation of alcohol first began in Southland as early as 1836 when Owen McShane made his "Chained Lightning" for the sealers and whalers.

From that early beginning until the last production in the 1950's (I dispute 1950's, there is evidence of production at least until the early 1970's – editor) a variety of Southlanders tried their hand at distilling Hokonui. Most notably, various members of the Scottish McRae clan who settled around the Hokonui Hills in the 1870's.

Not all of the early settlers had a taste for Hokonui however. Numerous church and temperance groups were active in their opposition to "Demon Drink." They had their days of glory when many southern districts went 'dry' around the turn of the century, some remaining in that state for over 60 years.

With prohibition in force, the production of Hokonui increased and drew the inevitable attention of determined Police and Customs officers resulting in many a prosecution, crippling fines, and even jail sentences.

Hokonui Moonshine has been described as both "rough and obnoxious to the taste" and "smooth as milk – better than Scotland's best."

The jug has been made in a rough grey pottery with the traditional brown glazed top. The name and skull & crossbones are raised. Unfortunately it is not filled, which is a pity as I would have liked to have tried it even though I am not a whisky drinker.

David Smith

GOOD_{man's} SCOTCHES



The club had it's annual barbecue at Steuart and Norma Goodman's house in Waikanae last January. Needless to say there was too much to eat and a good time was had by all.

Steuart and Norma had only recently moved there and were busy with fairly substantial alterations but Steuart got his priorities right – the minis were displayed!

Even many of the local members had never seen Steuart's collection as they were never displayed in their last house. I therefore took the opportunity to

photograph some of the more unusual Scotches. I will let the pictures talk for themselves.



David Smith



FROM NEW SCIENTIST MAGAZINE

Q At the risk of appearing a philistine, many people suggest letting red wine breathe before drinking to improve the flavour. Wouldn't it be quicker to pour it into a cocktail shaker, shake for 10 seconds and let the bubbles subside?

A1 Wine is left to breathe to allow the volatile and aroma-bearing substances to start evaporating, so that we may enjoy the bouquet. Shaking a drink is completely different. An agitated drink incorporates gas, letting oxygen reach as much liquid as possible. This oxidised liquid provides a very different taste. For some drinks this taste may be pleasant. However, if you oxidise wine you obtain vinegar, which, I suspect, is not the flavour you wish to taste. Therefore, there is a genuine reason for drinks being "shaken, not stirred" or vice-versa, depending on what you have in your glass.

A2 The reasons usually given for decanting red wines have changed during the past few years. This is because of two developments: one in wine making technology and the other in wine tastes. The original reason for decanting was to separate the wine from organic particulates formed by precipitation, and aggregation from tartaric acid, tannin compounds, original microparticulates present in the pressed grape juice and proteinaceous material that is formed during maturation of the wine. Because these particulates are small to minuscule in size and of a density not much higher than the wine itself, Stokes's law predicts that they will sink back to the bottom only extremely slowly should they be suspended by careless motion of the bottle. This is the reason for those magnificent mechanical decanting machines which allow precisely controlled tilting of the bottle to reduce suspension of particulates. A very different reason for decanting lies in aerating the wine to hasten the release of the secondary elements of its nose. While traditional old wines may actually lose some of their olfactory elements through intense aeration and become stale quickly, decanting for aeration parallels the development of taste in younger wines or wines elevated in oak casks with associated different weighting of primary and secondary smells. In Italy, where many progressive vintners have been experimenting with new assemblages and methods of elevation, decanting often means pouring the contents of a bottle straight down into a decanter, generating lots of chaotic turbulence with an intense mixing of air and wine. In the hands of a self-confident wine waiter this process can look flamboyantly spectacular. As a logical development of this reason for decanting, some modern Italian glass decanters have a flattened shape that allows for the maximum air-wine, interface giving further aeration.

A3 It is generally recognised that red wine should be drunk at ambient temperature and since it is often stored in a relatively cold room or location (near the floor) the most important aspect of the so-called breathing process is to raise the wine's temperature. However, the ambient temperature in the UK is often a little low and red wine is usually best if drunk at about 30 °C. Placing a bottle of red wine in a microwave oven for 50-60 seconds (depending on the season) on high power will produce the required effect without having to resort to allowing the wine to breathe before consumption, but do not forget to remove the foil capsule and the cork. The alternative concept of shaking the wine in a cocktail shaker will result in the formation of various oxidation products including vinegar, which will have a negative effect on the flavour. [Only chemists drink red wine at a temperature of 30 °C. Our wine experts suggest a temperature of around 17 °C - New Scientist Editor]

DATE, TIME & PLACE

April		No meeting
May 19 th	2.00pm	Gary Carvey's, 156 Te Moana Road, Waikanae
May 26 th	2.00pm	David Fretwell's, 61 Port Hills Road, Heathcote, Christchurch
June 16 th	2.00pm	Colin Ryder's, 20 Prospect Terrace, Johnsonville
July 21 st	2.00pm	Ian Butcher's, 60 Discovery Drive, Whitby
July 28 th	2.00pm	Gary Passfield's, 3a Wetlands grove, Bexley, Christchurch
August 18 th	2.00pm	David Smith's, 86 Rawhiti Road, Pukerua Bay
September 15 th		TBA – any volunteers?
September 29 th	2.00pm	Trevor Harvey's, 44 Basingstoke street, Wainoni, Christchurch
October 20 th	12.30pm	Pot Luck Lunch Marj. Lynch's, 51 Maxwell Avenue, Wanganui
November		TBA – any volunteers?
November 17 th	2.00pm	Robin Mellish's, 66 Rudds Road, Christchurch
December	Christmas Meal	TBA – Ideas and suggestions welcome
January 19 th	12.30pm	Barbecue at Stuart Goodman's, 21 Horopito Road, Waikanae
February 15/16 th	Anytime	AGM and Weekend away at Patea. (AGM after lunch on 16 th)

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?

And now for the bad news.....

2002 was to be a free year but our budget will not allow us to do this and have colour in miNiZ. There was a vote at the AGM and it was decided, unanimously, that a membership fee be charged. Not only that, we have put the fees up for most members. This is the first increase since about 1990 and reflects all current costs. Some areas of the world have not changed due to NZ's current poor exchange rate.

New Zealand	NZ\$16	U.S.A., Canada & Asia	US\$14 or equivalent
Australia	A\$20	U.K., Europe, Africa & South America	£10 or equivalent

Membership runs for a full 12 months from the month you join.