

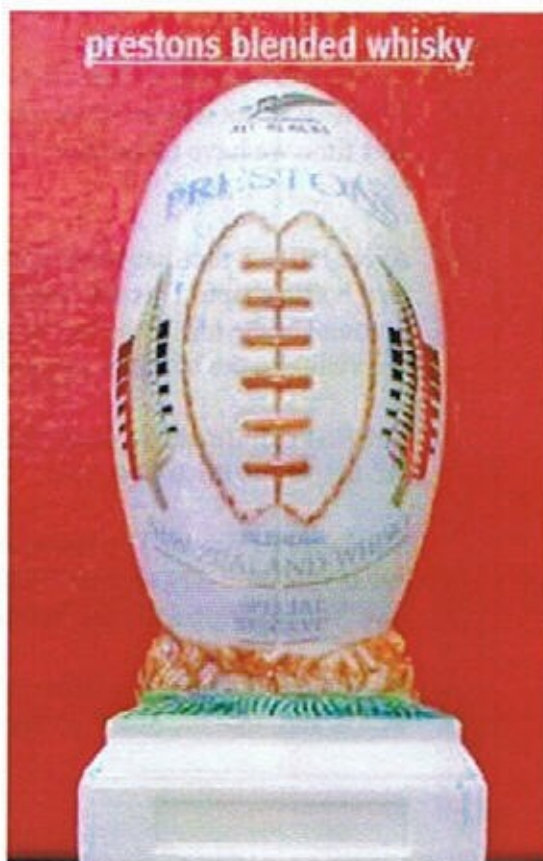
Issue 61

Winter 2002



MINIIZ

THE NEWSLETTER OF PORT NICHOLSON MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



Australasia's only Miniature Bottle Club

Cover and New New Zealand

The cover shows a sample miniature ceramic rugby ball that was produced about 7 years ago. It is one of only two in existence. Unfortunately the project was shelved although a full size bottle was produced at that time. There are some of the full size bottles left and Prestons will give Erica Mulder a special deal. If you might be interested in the full size ceramic or the first 4 new New Zealand minis shown at right please contact Erica Mulder, 37 Park Road, Titirangi, Auckland; phone (09) 817 7499; email Erica.mulder@paradise.net.

Erica writes "I am having discussions with Warren Preston and there might be more interesting miniature news soon, I will keep you posted. Regarding the other miniatures



(at right), I had them done especially, they are all true miniatures." All are glass and I will let them speak for themselves.



To the left we have a Chatelle Napoleon Brandy 50ml 37.2%. It is not new as it was produced in 2001 but it is the first time we have pictured it. Unfortunately it is a plastic bottle.

At far left is a familiar name and label but on a completely new bottle shape. This tall bottle is oval at the base, changing to round at the top. The Keri Liqueur remains at 18% and, surprisingly, the bottle is still only 40ml.

The first picture on the facing page shows one old, very old, NZ bottle and three new ones.

MacCarthy's Brown Top Brand Brown Stout is about 50ml but as it is probably around 100 years old it does not say so. It was "Brewed Specially for Invalids" in Wellington City.

Waterloo Dry Gin is the latest in the Prenzel series. It is 50ml, 42.5% and, like the others in the series, plastic and square.



The next picture is very poor. It is very difficult to get a good picture of a gold and black label. This mini is a Ti-Toki Liqueur, 50ml, 37%. This company produces a nice 500ml ceramic 'Maori carving' figurine bottle and they had promised to produce these in miniature. To our disappointment this plastic bottle appeared instead. The company is still being lobbied to produce the ceramic mini.

Lastly, for the first picture on this page, we have the first bottle of what will be a series from N.Z. Fruit Wines of Levin. This is again a plastic. It is a Ginger Mead, 50ml, 13%.



Finally, above we have a new set of 6 Shot Glass type minis. They are from Kings Liquor of Greenhithe, Auckland. The flavours are Apple Sour, Bourbon Mash, Cranberry Vodka, Hot Mint, Rum Tot and Whiskey Shot. All are 30ml, 23% and come in a plastic glass that is designed to clip onto the rim of a beer glass.



That's it for new New Zealand bottles but just as a 'filler' we have at the left a bottle owned by David & Val Fretwell. If there seems to be something vaguely familiar about it it is because it is a Warner Brothers character. This bottle was a mock up for the Alpa Warner Brothers series (Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, Elmer Fudd, Foghorn Leghorn, Grandma, Hippety Hopper, Honey Bunny, Petunia Pig, Porky Pig, Speedy Gonzales, Sylvester & Wile E. Coyote) but was never produced. Can anyone tell me what the name of the character is because it is driving me mad trying to think of it.

David Smith

SOUTH PACIFIC JOURNAL

By Jim Crawford

Last February and March, Nancy & I had the opportunity to take an extended Holiday to New Zealand, Australia, and New Caledonia. We had such a great time, and met so many collectors, that I decided to do a journal on our trip through New Zealand for this issue of the Newsletter. Originally, we had planned our trip so we could attend the Patea Weekend, but fate had other plans for us and, due to airline scheduling conflicts, we could not get to New Zealand until the weekend was all but over.

We started off our journey with 32 hours of air travel from Cincinnati, Ohio to Auckland, New Zealand. Normally it doesn't take that long, but we had to fly by way of Sydney which added about 6 hours to the trip. We started our visit of New Zealand in Auckland where we got a good nights rest before we started on our 10 day drive throughout the North Island. Even though you drive on the wrong side of the road (no you lot do – editor), we managed to get the hang of driving the car very quickly as we drove from the airport into Auckland City Center that first afternoon. We did some sight seeing in Auckland on Saturday night and Sunday morning, and left to go north to the "tropics". We headed up to the town of Piapia on the Bay of Islands where we spent 2 days taking in the sights of Russell & Waitangi and, of course, did some mini bottle shopping. There were several liquor shops, but only 1 had any good minis. From Piapia, we drove back to Auckland.



Above is Erica Mulder standing in front of her favorite Delft minis

the Matakohu Kauri Museum, and of course stopped by most all the Liquor Stores. While we were in Western Auckland, we visited fellow collector Erica Mulder and her friend Nel. Erica (left picture) has a fantastic collection of figurines and other minis, but her favorites are the minis from her home country of Holland. Erica has a lot of Delft minis, including all the Canal Houses. We had a great evening visiting and talking mini bottles. Erica was kind enough to help me finish my collection of Air New Zealand buildings by finding me the Waipori Hotel mini that I have been trying to find for a long time now. As a result of her gift, I now finally have all 11 of the buildings. I will have to do an article on this set sometime in the future.

Along the way, we stopped at the Waipoua Kauri Forest, saw the huge Tane Mahuta giant Kauri Tree, visited

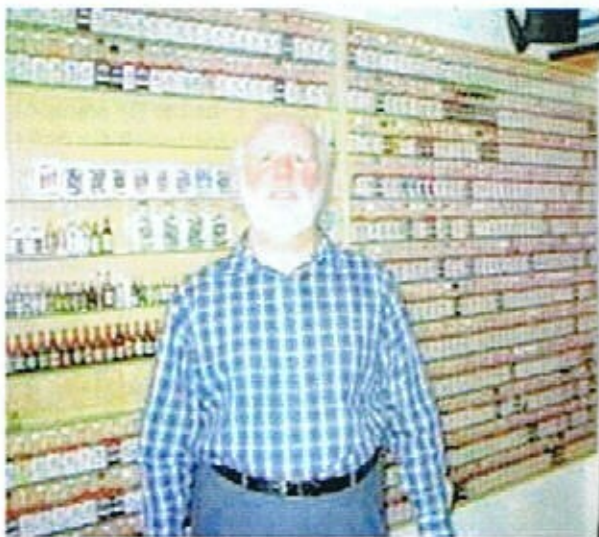


**Above is Ian Butcher & his collection
If I didn't know better, I would think those are my shelves!**

Next, we went to Rotorua & saw quite a few fantastic sights including Geysers, Mud Pools, Steam Vents, Waterfalls, and more liquor stores. Well maybe the liquor stores were not fantastic. We really didn't see much in the way of mini bottles. Nancy & I also really enjoyed the Maori cultural shows and exhibits. We found out the Maori are the Polynesian natives of New Zealand, and are related to the Hawaiian natives. They even have the same alphabet. The next day we visited Huka Falls and the Craters of the Moon. What awesome beauty you have in New Zealand. The last day before driving to Wellington, we stayed in Taupo. Taupo is a very beautiful town on Lake Taupo. Here we found a liquor store called Scenic Cellars. This turned out to be a gold mine for fantastic Mini Bottles. While buying some minis, Lee (the owner)

overheard me talking to her store associate, and started asking questions about my collection. After a few minutes she invited Nancy & I down to her private wine cellar to show us some of her very special items. We ended up buying about \$500 worth of mini bottles including 2 sets of wine bottles in a wooden case that looked like real cigars. What a store!

The next day we drove to Ian Butcher's home in Wellington. Ian has a great collection of whiskies, and we spent a lot of time looking at his collection and talking bottles. While in Wellington, Ian showed us around the city.



Above, David Smith is standing by a small part of his vast collection

While in Wellington, we also went to dinner with David Smith, and stopped by to see his collection. As you know, David has a lot of the Hoffman minis, Personalized Jim Beam minis, and also has all the KLM Canal Houses, but David is most noted for his micro-minis. I have never seen so many micro-minis, and it was awesome.

We had a super visit in Wellington, but we needed to move on. We traveled back north, up the West Coast to the small town of Patea where we stopped in to visit Dianne Opie. While we were there, Pam Fowler came over to see us, and we all had a great time looking at Dianne's collection and talking bottles. The picture below shows Pam and Dianne, with Nancy & I. I found out that Dianne has a huge mini bottle collection. She has a lot of bottles in the house, but we were amazed that most of her collection were located on floor to ceiling shelves located in her large garage. What a collection she has. It was at this point that I

really felt the disappointment of not being able to make the Patea Weekend. Overall, the all the people we met in New Zealand were fabulous hosts. Everyone there helped make our 10 days fly by, and before we knew it, we were on our way to Cairns, Australia and the Great Barrier Reef.

Arriving in northern Australia, we found it was very hot and humid. We actually stayed in a small town called Palm Cove. We came here for the warm weather, snorkeling, scenery, shopping. I must say that there were very few mini bottles in Australia, but everything else was absolutely super. We snorkeled at 3 different reefs on the Great Barrier Reef. This was the best snorkeling we had ever done. We were surprised that the Great Barrier Reef was actually 30 miles off shore, but we were not disappointed. Our week in Australia went far too quick, and before we knew it, we were now off to New Caledonia.



New Caledonia is a French Island and this was the most beautiful spot we have ever been to. When you see pictures of fantastic South Pacific seas, beaches, huts, and palm trees, this is what New Caledonia looks like. This was paradise, and we had a great time swimming, site seeing, shopping, and snorkeling. As a matter of fact, the snorkeling was even better than the Great Barrier Reef. To top all that off, on our 2nd last day there, we found one shop that had miniatures actually made on the island. I will save those pictures for another article. After 7 gorgeous days, it was again time to move on. This time it was back to Sydney for a few days before heading home.

Jim Crawford, Pam Fowler, Dianne Opie and Nancy Crawford

In Sydney, we met a mini bottle collector who showed us around Sydney. He also arranged for us to visit one of the largest distributor in the country. It was here we found out that taxes on liquor have become so high in Australia that it has pretty much stopped local distillers from making mini bottles. The profits are just too small.



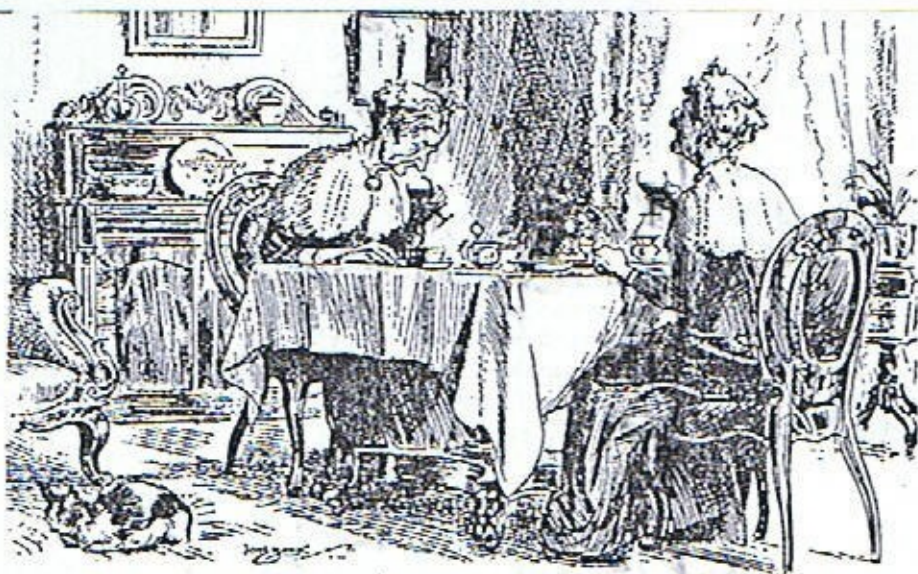
The Next day we took the ferry over to Manly, where we spent the whole day walking around and doing that last bit of shopping before we had to fly home. Although we spent 2 days in Sydney and Manly, I really didn't see any good Australian miniatures except for a few Cougar Bourbons bottled in Australia, but made at the Seagram's distillery in Lawrenceberg, Indiana. The funny thing is that Lawrenceberg, Indiana is located just a short 15 minutes drive from our house in Cincinnati.

The Loot

Overall we had a very memorable trip. We met a lot of great people from several different countries. We met some very friendly mini bottle collectors who made us feel very much at home. Without a doubt, the people of New Zealand were the most friendly people we encountered in the 29 days we were traveling.

On the left is a picture of only some of the bottles we brought back. I will be using these bottles as the subject for several future articles. This was indeed a dream trip which Nancy & I will remember for a long time to come.

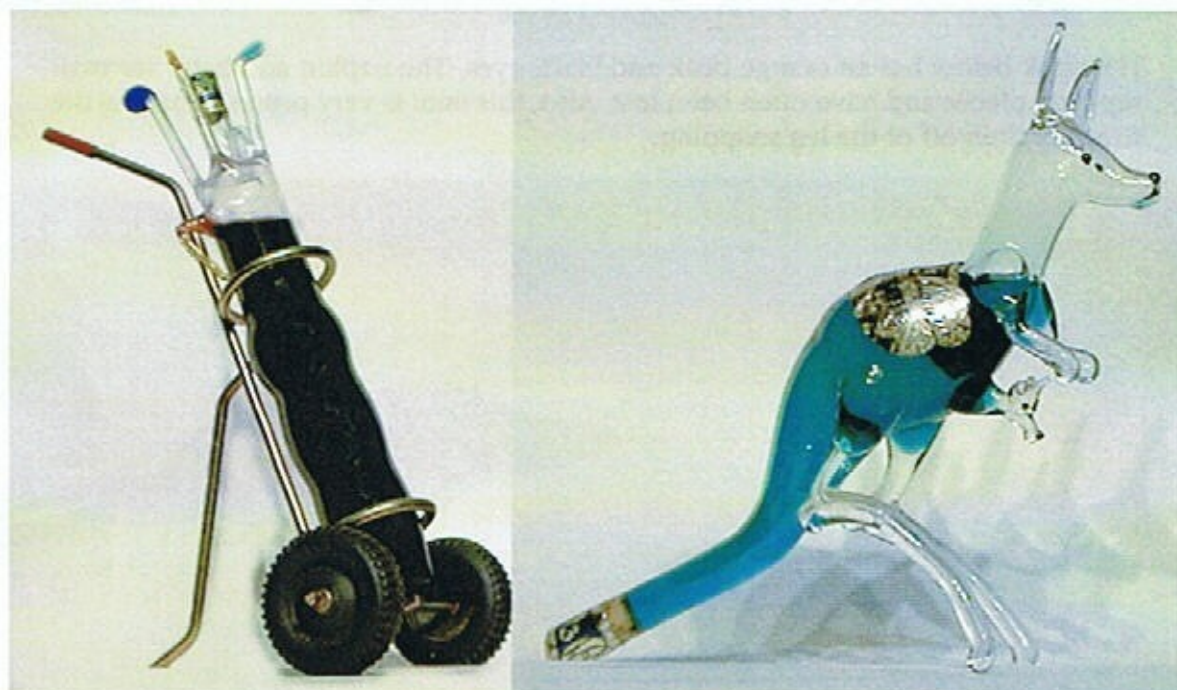
A special thanks to all the Port Nicholson Miniature Bottle Club Members for your efforts to make Nancy & I feel so at home during our trip to New Zealand. Now you will all have to come visit us in the "States". The Midwest Miniature Bottle Collectors Club has its 25th Anniversary show in April, 2004 & it's your turn to see the USA. (Editor: A number of NZ members have expressed an interest in going to St. Louis for the MMBC 25th anniversary. If you may be interested contact either myself or Ian Butcher.)



'I'm buggered if I can smell gooseberries.'

Baitz Blown Glass

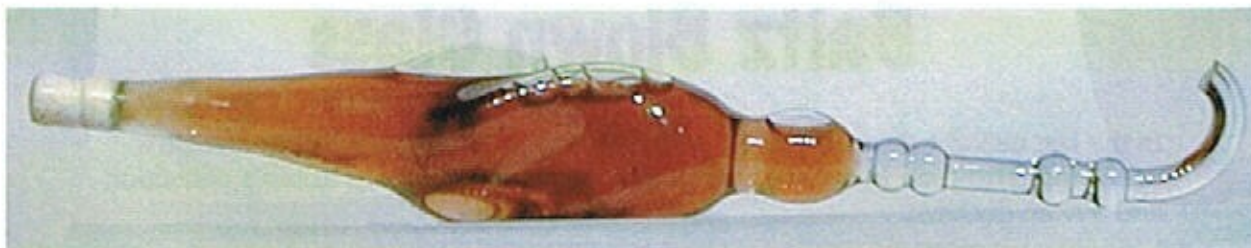
In the last miNiZ I showed you 17 Bols blown glass minis from Robin Mellish's collection. This time I have for you 10 Baitz glass minis, 5 from Robin's collection and 5 from my own.



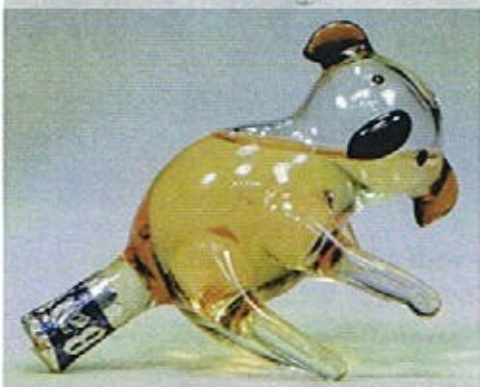
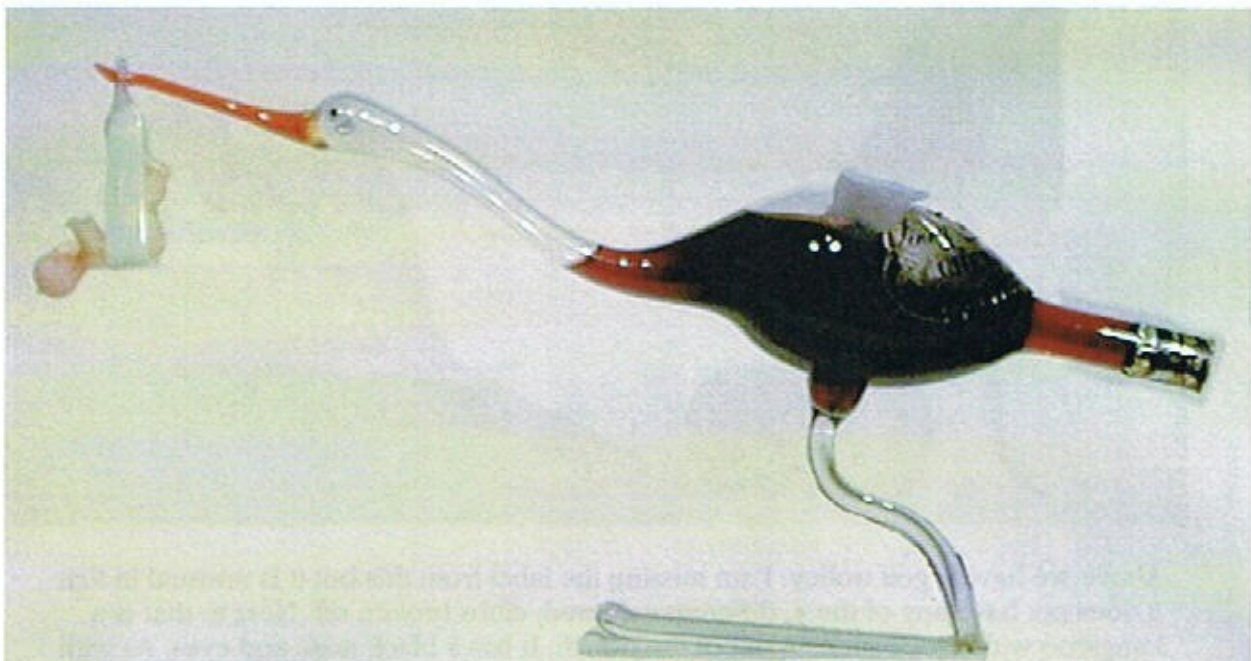
Above we have a golf trolley. I am missing the label from this but it is unusual in that it does not have any of the 4, different coloured, clubs broken off. Next to that is a kangaroo with a joey sticking out of the pouch. It has a black nose and eyes. As with the Bols, I will ignore the contents as they vary from piece to piece of the same type.



Next we have a fox and a swan. The fox has red ears with a black nose, whilst the swan has a blue beak. Both have black eyes. On the next page we start with the umbrella. This is the only one known but, unfortunately, as you can see, the end of the handle is broken off.



The stork below has an orange beak and black eyes. The napkin and baby are two separate pieces and have often been lost. Also, this mini is very prone to having the wings broken off or the leg snapping.



The middle picture on the last page shows a small bird with a red beak and a duck billed platypus. The platypus has a blue bill and feet. Both have black eyes. I would not mind betting that Baitz have made the only duck billed platypus mini.

The bottom picture shows a koala. This is one of a pair, the other piece being a tree. The koala comes with a plastic stand but you can take it off this and slot it over the tree. I had the tree for years before picking up the koala, which has orange/brown ears and a black nose and eyes.

Finally we have the weirdest Baitz piece, and undoubtedly one of the strangest mini bottles made, the gherkin. Why would anyone want to make a mini of a gherkin? This piece is moulded rather than blown glass. It has gold highlights on the stalk end.

I will try to bring you a few more of these rare Baitz pieces in another miNiZ.

David Smith

Two Extraordinary



On the left we see two bottles from David & Val Fretwell's collection.

The left one is Macleay Duff's Draught Old Scotch Whisky. It was bottled in Dunedin and I would guess at sometime between the two world wars. I apologise for photograph as the label is perfect.

The right bottle was made by Havill's Mead as a trophy for the New Zealand Chartered Clubs Indoor Bowling Championship in 1995. Canterbury Chartered Club was the host. There was only 1 or 3 of each of these made. David Fretwell

organised them on behalf of the club.

These do not appear on the New Zealand Miniatures List as they were not made in any reasonable quantity. (I have a Havill's Mead Special in my collection also. It is a pink top jug that was done as a sample for me to see how a 'red' top would look for the PNMB 16th Anniversary Jug – Editor)

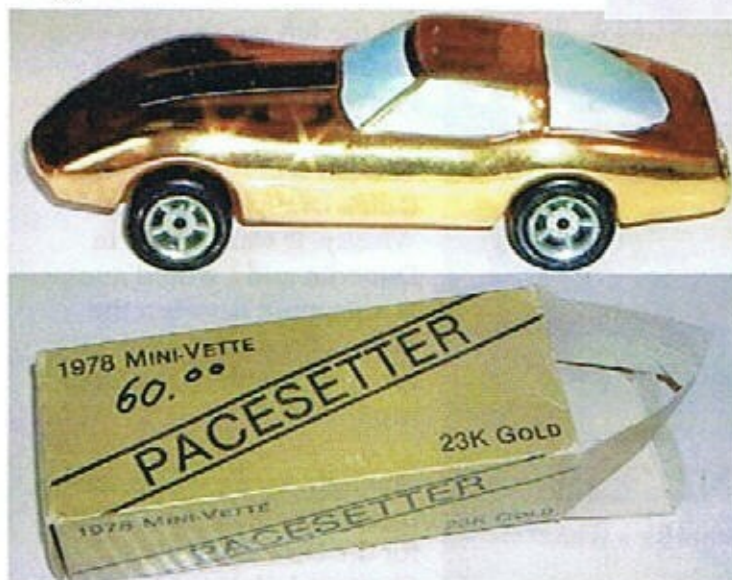
As Seen On Ebay #2

As promised, No.2 in the series. We start off with two minis complete with their original boxes.

The McCormick Marilyn Monroe mini decanter was made in 1984. This was sold, in perfect condition, sealed and in the box for US\$167.50. I bought mine for US\$25 in the 1980's at a store that David Spaid took me to – thanks David!

Now for a bottle that went down rather than up in price.

The Pacesetter Mini-Corvette measures about 178mm (7") long and is covered in 23K gold. It is labelled and dates from 1978. Originally it contained bourbon but as with many ceramics it has been emptied. There are no chips or cracks but there are a few tiny areas where the gold has worn off. The original box was



included and this shows the price (US\$60) that the bottle was sold for when new. It sold 24 years later for a surprisingly low US\$10.60



The last item on this page is a 40th Anniversary edition of the raising of the flag at Iwo Jima. It stands 228mm (9") tall to the top of the flag (rather big for a mini), and 114mm (4.5") across the base. The flag is detachable. The soldiers, which make up the stopper, are all in silver and the base has a marble finish with a green

felt top. The base is marked 40th Anniversary, Feb. 22, 1985, and the McCormick label is on the back. The tax seal is still intact although the decanter is empty. It sold for US\$70

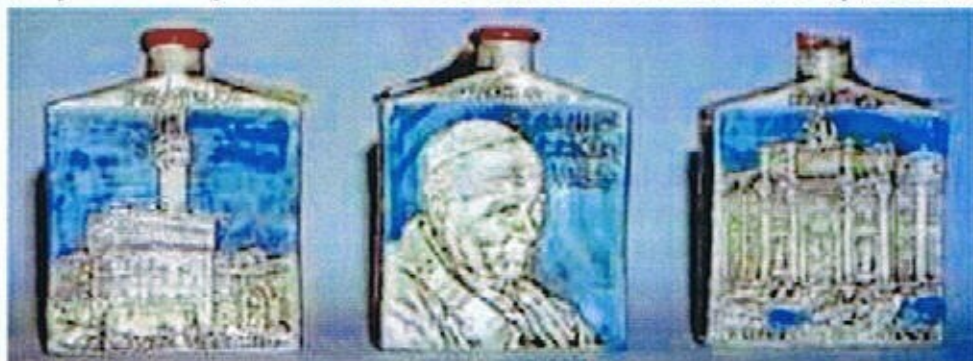


To the left we have one bottle not two. We are seeing both sides of the 1976 Raintree Clown #2. It is 203mm (8") tall and still contains 2oz of Raintree 86 proof bourbon. It sold for US\$35.



Next to the clowns we have a very fancy ceramic flask, Oberammergau. It is 114mm (4.5") high and was sold full for US\$15.

Below is a set of three mini flasks made by Valenti, Italy. They are all about 102mm (4") high by 76mm (3") wide and all are full with the wax seal intact. The first bottle, Firenze, depicts Palazzo Vecchio on the front and Ponte Vecchio on the back. The middle bottle, Roma, depicts The Pope, Anno Santo 1983 on the front and St. Peters Square on the back.

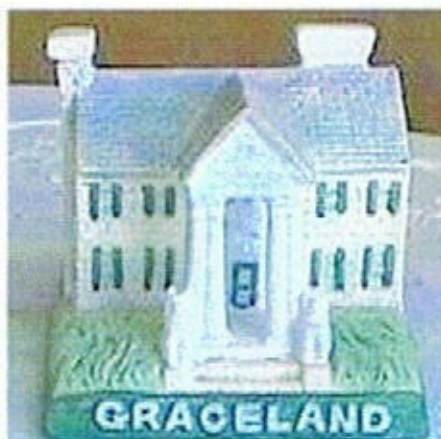
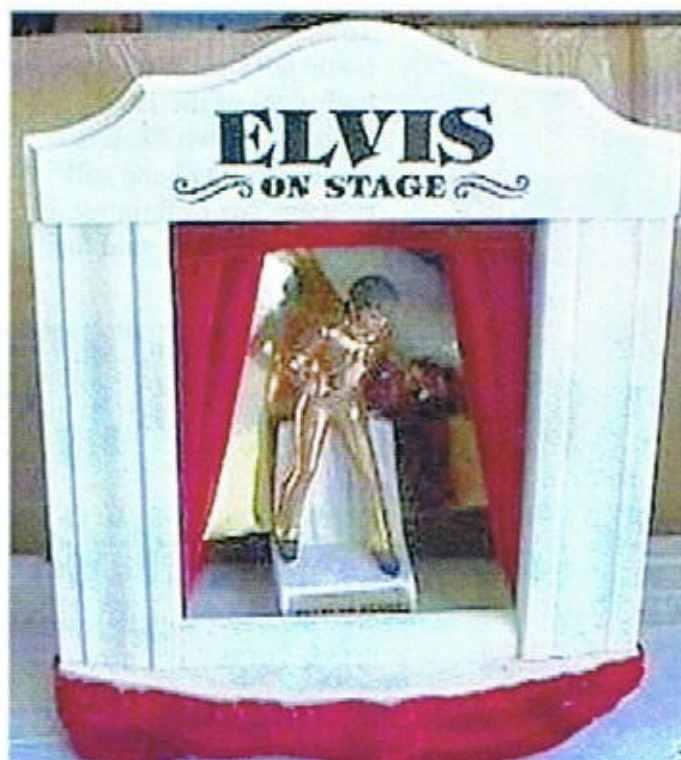


The final bottle again is from Roma and again depicts St. Peters Square, this time on the front with the Trevi Fountain on the back. The three sold for US\$30.

Next up, and shown on the next page, we have two excellent bottles that failed to sell.

Elvis Gold on stage failed to reach a reserve of US\$344.99 and Graceland failed to reach a reserve of US\$244.99. Another Graceland was put up for sale, with a more realistic reserve, a couple of weeks later. It sold for US\$15.59, which I consider to be very cheap. In case

you do not know, Graceland was the mansion of Elvis Presley. Visiting it is like visiting a cross between a shrine and a museum. Well worth the visit though if visiting Memphis.



The Okinawain Geishas mini decanters pair is from by Gemini. The pair stand 102mm (4") tall to the top of their hair, which is the stopper. One is titled Flowered Kimono and the other Yellow Kimono. They sold for US\$26 for the pair. A set of three standing Geishas by Blue Ridge (not shown) sold for US\$40.01



The mini on the right is of course, Laurel and Hardy in a car. It stands 102mm (4") inches high with the stopper being Laurel's top hat. This bottle is branded Laurel & Hardy and the bottom of the base is imprinted "Heirlooms of Tomorrow" and signed by B. Hasenstab, 1971. It sold for US\$48.99

On the next page are two bottles depicting Laurel & Hardy taking off with suitcase in hand. They were made by MBC and are both about 165mm (6.5") high. The bottle stoppers are the top of their hats. The bottles were sold empty for US\$55 for the pair.





Chartreuse is a well known French liqueur made by the monks. I visited there 5 years ago but had no idea that they had sold porcelain minis. This mini is in the shape of a soda siphon and I suspect that it is quite old even though it is in excellent condition. It stands 108mm (4.25") high and is still full and sealed. It sold for US\$14.49



The mini to the right depicts the

Taj Majal. It stands 102mm (4") high to the top of the large dome, which is the stopper. This mini was made by MBC and has been emptied. It sold for US\$21



One label on this adorable duck says P. Garnier. Unfortunately it also has a State of Wisconsin tax stamp on the back, a neck label for the US importer and a U.S. revenue tax stamp across its head. Which makes the whole mini look scruffy. To top it off the bottom is imprinted with "Garnier, France." The bottle has never been opened and has not even evaporated. It sold for US\$20

This bottle is never seen in NZ but appears frequently at the US shows. It dates from 1934-8 and is part of a set of 6 (Hen & Chicks, Snail, Dog, Frog, Duck and Pelican) known as the Humoristiques. There is also an elephant but this was not sold as part of the set.

The mini decanter to the right is of Madame Butterfly and was made by Gagliano of Italy. She stands 140mm (5.5") tall. A wooden stopper seals the bottle but it is empty. The base is imprinted "Esclusivita Gagliano 14". I wish that I could tell you what this sold for but I seem to have forgotten to note it!!! (I can't be perfect all the time).





This great miniature is of Santa Claus about to climb down into the house and fill those stockings. He has his finger to his mouth in a warning to be quiet (to the reindeer?). This mini is 165mm (6.5") tall and has Heye Comes Santa (written as if a child wrote it) across the bottom of the front, with a holly leaf at one end. On the bottom it is marked HAPPY HOLIDAYS - MOTHER GRENADIER - ORIGINAL- (C) 1979. The cork is missing and so the bottle is empty. Few New Zealanders will have seen this bottle but a few were imported by the club in the very early days (about 1983) from a US dealer called Jon Sol. We imported a lot of items between us from Jon Sol in the 1980's but unfortunately they went out of business.

To the right is a plastic replica mini coke bottle. You twist the cap to wind it up and a door opens revealing the bear which spins around. I bought this one for US\$5.50 There was no size shown so I asked and was told 3" – a

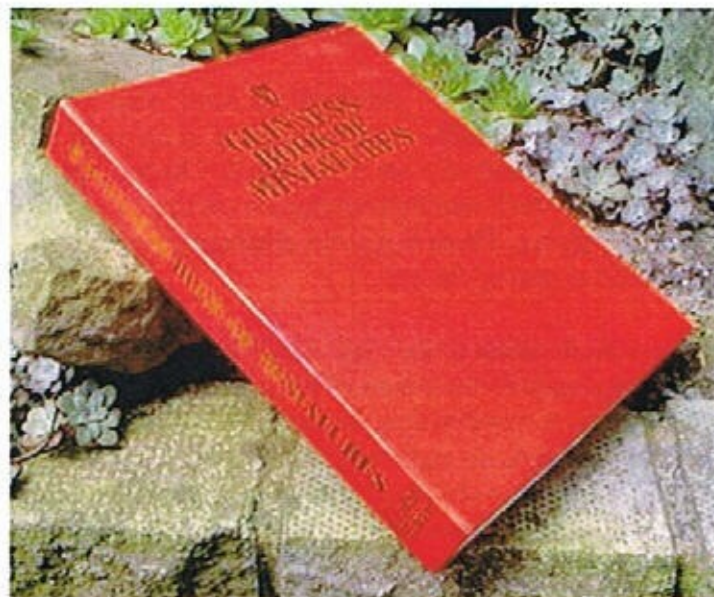


size that would fit in with my micro collection. When it arrived it turned out to be just short of 6" – at that size I would not have bid on it. Which just goes to show that no matter how you try to ask the right questions you can still get shafted bidding on on-line auctions.

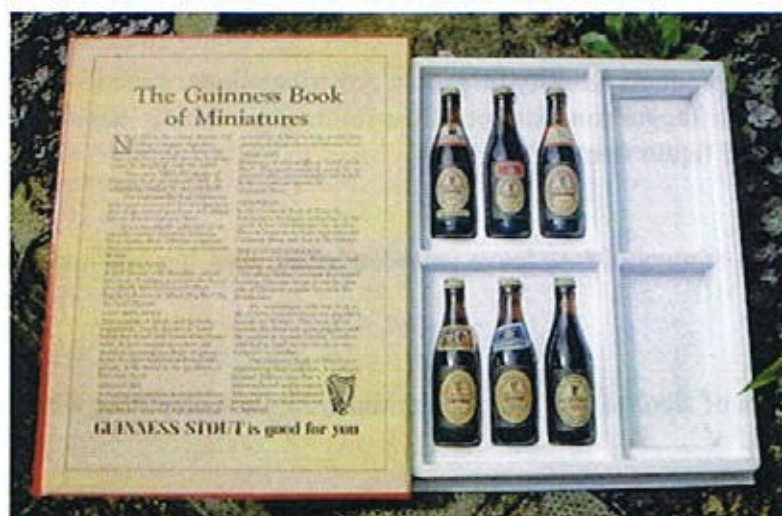


This parrot miniature is obviously quite old. It was made by Monaci Della Certosa D. Firenze and contained Brandy della Certosa. It is approximately 115mm (4.5") in height. Empty it sold for US\$7.99

At right is what appears to be a normal Guinness Book of Records, but is only a book in appearance. It is in fact a small collection of 6 miniature Guinness bottles with 5 of them with labels as they would appear when exported to West Malaysia, East Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia. The last one



is a United Kingdom example. The bottles and labels are in good condition. Unfortunately the seller had no idea what the other two sections of the book contained. The book is 190mm (7.5") wide by 240mm (9.5") high. A most unusual Guinness and/or miniature collectable, and one I have not seen before. It sold for £41



Remember that colour photos of all these bottles can be seen on the web site. Go to <http://minibottles.artshost.com/> to view them. Note that the quality of some of the photos is not very good as they are whatever the seller posted on Ebay. Also that some of the better photos are quite large file sizes to download if you only have a dial-up connection.

David Smith

An Unusual pair



Both these bottles are Dynasty wine from China. The bottle on the right is about 76mm (3") tall and is a lighter. I bought it from a collector in New York just before last Christmas. It is a replica of the 750ml bottle.

I was in Canton (Guangzhou), China on business in April and in my mini bar was the bottle of wine on the left. This is not a mini but a quarter bottle size (187.5ml). Note how faithfully the mini



follows the real thing. Also in my mini bar was this Courvoisier VSOP canon. There have been lots of these canons but this is a design that I have not seen before.

On a lighter Note

Due to increasing products liability litigation, American liquor manufacturers have accepted the FDA's suggestion that one of the following warning labels be placed immediately on all liquor containers:

WARNING:

The consumption of alcohol may leave you wondering what the hell happened to your bra.

WARNING:

The consumption of alcohol may make you think you are whispering when you are not.

WARNING:

The consumption of alcohol is a major factor in dancing like an idiot.

WARNING:

The consumption of alcohol may cause you to tell your friends over and over again that you love them.

WARNING:

The consumption of alcohol may cause you to think you can sing.

WARNING:

The consumption of alcohol may lead you to believe that ex-lovers are really dying for you to telephone them at four in the morning.

WARNING:

The consumption of alcohol may make you think you can logically converse with members of the opposite sex without spitting.

WARNING:

The consumption of alcohol may make you think you have mystical Kung Fu powers, resulting in you getting your ass kicked.

WARNING:

The consumption of alcohol may cause you to roll over in the morning and see something really scary.

WARNING:

The consumption of alcohol is the leading cause of inexplicable rug burns on the forehead, knees and lower back..

WARNING:

The consumption of alcohol may create the illusion that you are tougher, smarter, faster and better looking than most people.

WARNING:

The consumption of alcohol may lead you to believe you are invisible.

WARNING:

The consumption of alcohol may lead you to think people are laughing WITH you.

WARNING:

The consumption of alcohol may cause a disturbance in the time-space continuum, whereby gaps of time may seem to literally disappear.

A Warning for our Male Members

Date Rape Drug Now Targeting Males

Police are warning all clubbers, partygoers and unsuspecting pub regulars to be alert and stay cautious when offered a drink from any woman. A new date rape drug on the market called "beer" is used by many females to target unsuspecting men. The drug is generally found in liquid form and is now available almost anywhere.

"Beer" is used by female sexual predators at parties and bars to persuade their male victims to go home and have sex with them. Typically, a woman needs only to persuade a guy to consume a few units of "beer" and then simply ask him home for no-strings-attached sex. Men are rendered helpless against this approach. After several "beers" men will often succumb to desires to perform sexual acts on women to whom they would never normally be attracted.

After drinking "beer" men often awaken with only hazy memories of exactly what happened to them the night before, often with just a vague feeling that something bad occurred. At other times these unfortunate men are swindled out of their life's savings in a familiar scam known as "a relationship."

Apparently, men are much more susceptible to this scam after "beer" is administered and sex is offered by the predatory female.

Please! Forward this warning to every male you know. However, if you fall victim to this insidious "beer" and the predatory women administering it, there are male support groups with venues in every town where you can discuss the details of your shocking encounter in an open and frank manner with similarly affected, like minded guys. For the support group nearest you, just look up "Golf Courses" in the yellow pages.

NEW CALEDONIA

By Jim Crawford

In March, 2002 Nancy & I visited the French Island of New Caledonia. New Caledonia is located about a 3-hour plane ride from Auckland. While the Capital, Noumea, is absolutely beautiful, the rest of the island is pretty much like any other island. We found the Ocean around Noumea to be quite warm and inviting. The beaches were indescribably beautiful, and the Snorkeling was the best we have encountered anywhere in the world. When we snorkeled at the Great Barrier Reef, we thought it was the best, but New Caledonia had it beat from the first instant we saw all the colored coral and the multitudes of brilliantly colored tropical fish.

We really didn't see any locally produced miniature bottles until the second last day we were there. Then we saw the prize all mini bottle collectors look for where ever they go. There on the shelf of a grocery store in Noumea City Center was a group of 10 very colorful miniature bottles actually made on the island.



Above are five of the bottles. From the left, the first mini bottle is BANANE NOUMAE containing a yellow colored banana liqueur; PHARE AMEEDÉ CURACO BLEU containing blue curaco liqueur; TROPICAL PLANTEW containing a red colored liqueur; LAGON LETCHI containing a cream colored raspberry liqueur; and POE COCO containing a cream colored liqueur. All of the bottles are glass with metal spring clamp caps. Each of these mini bottles is between 10 and 11 cm high.

Like the first group of miniature bottles from New Caledonia, the 5 miniature bottles on the next page are also all glass with metal spring type caps. The heights of these minis vary from 13 cm to 19 cm.

From the left, the first mini bottle is CITRONNELLE DU MONT DO liqueur; BOIS NOIR liqueur; IBISCO COCO-IBISCO containing an orange colored liqueur; ILES DES PINS CAFÉ Liqueur; and MAISON RIDOLFI LIQ DE NIAOUL containing a green colored liqueur.



Cuban Cigars?

No but a very good imitation of Cuban cigars in the form of Italian Grappa bottles. The 6 different Grappas were made from Barolo, Nebiolo, Dolcetto, Moscato, Arneis and Barbera grapes. All are 40ml, 44%. I really did think that they were cigars when I saw them.



These are mentioned by Jim Crawford in his other article in this edition and have been imported into NZ by Scenic Cellars of Taupo. They are available from the store or by mail order at \$79.95 per set plus \$5 postage within NZ.

David Smith

Fire Minis

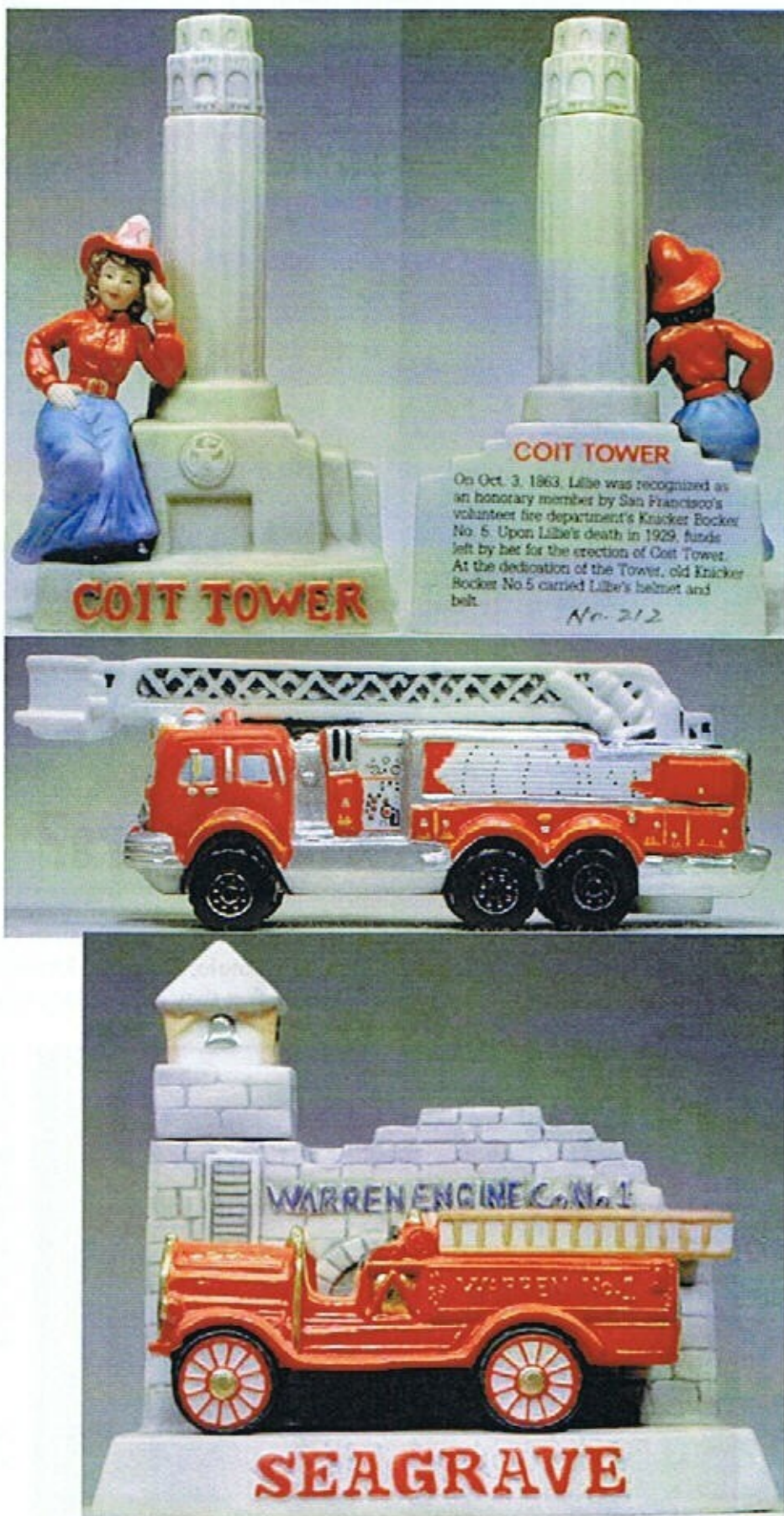
For no better reason than I needed an extra page to even up the newsletter, I am showing you three fire brigade related minis. All these were bought by myself in the last year. I will largely let them speak for themselves.

The Coit Tower is in San Francisco. It was made in 1994 by Dugs who, of course, are better known for their brothel series, and contains bourbon. Hopefully you can read the writing on the back which gives the history.

The first fire engine is from Mount Hope and contains grape wine. I had seen this mini pictured many times and it always looked rather too large. It was for sale on Ebay and I put a minimum bid on it as I was not really bothered whether I bought it or not. As you can see I did – and got a surprise as it is truly a mini size.

The final piece, Warren Engine Co. No. 1, shows both the fire engine and the station. It appears to be from Seagrave but was again a piece put out by Dugs. It also contains bourbon.

David Smith



ODD SPOT

FROM NEW SCIENTIST MAGAZINE

Q Cola drinks do a beautiful job of cleaning the corrosion from brass and similar alloys. How does this work? And what effect do the chemicals that cause this have on your stomach when you drink cola?

A1 The tarnish that forms on alloys is caused by a reaction between oxygen and one of the metals contained in the alloy. This forms an oxide. Cola drinks are weakly acidic and so, when a tarnished alloy such as a used coin is placed in them, the acid reacts with the oxide. This removes the oxygen from it and leaves a coating of metal behind, providing a clean and shiny alloy. The acid has no adverse effect on the stomach which is more acidic than the drink. However consuming large quantities of cola damages your teeth, which can be destroyed by acid.

A2 The reason why cola drinks clean the corrosion from brass and other alloys is that cola contains quite a large amount of phosphoric acid. This acid eats away the corrosion. Phosphoric acid will also eat away your teeth, so you must always brush them after drinking cola. There is a similar amount of phosphoric acid in both cola and diet cola, so don't think that the diet version is any better for your teeth than standard cola. There is very little difference.

A3 I shouldn't worry too much about the effects of cola on one's stomach. In my experience the acids in the stomach have a far greater effect on metalwork than cola does on your innards. My anecdotal evidence for this is a childhood memory of cycling to Cub Scouts with an upset stomach. I had just leant my bike against the hut when, to my horror, I threw up over it. Because I was late I dashed inside. On emerging 90 minutes later, I found the areas of the bicycle's frame that had come into contact with the vomit had completely lost their paintwork.

DATE, TIME & PLACE

September 15 th	12.30pm	Pot Luck Lunch Marj. Lynch's, 51 Maxwell Avenue, Wanganui
September 29 th	2.00pm	Trevor Harvey's, 44 Basingstoke street, Wainoni, Christchurch
October 20 th	2.00pm	Colin Ryder's, 20 Prospect Terrace, Johnsonville
November 17 th	2.00pm	David Smith's, 86 Rawhiti Road, Pukerua Bay
November 17 th	2.00pm	Robin Mellish's, 66 Rudds Road, Christchurch
December	Christmas Meal	TBA – Ideas and suggestions welcome
December 22 nd	12.00 noon	Bacon Butty Lunch at David Smith's. (not a club function but all members welcome)
January 19 th	12.30pm	Barbecue at Steuart 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?



NEW CLUB WEB SITE

<http://minibottles.artshost.com/>

The club No.1 site has been off the web since Errol Brassett resigned. The No.2 site, Drinks Links, remains on line at <http://www.geocities.com/drinkslinks/>

Our new No.1 site will eventually become our only site. We will be integrating the best features from the two old sites and adding new features. It is still at a very early stage but check it out if you can.

One feature that the new site has is colour photos of all the bottles that have appeared in miNiZ issues 57-61. We will be posting the photos from each new issue of miNiZ as they are published.