

Issue 68

Spring 2004



MINIIZ

THE NEWSLETTER OF PORT NICHOLSON MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



Australasia's only Miniature Bottle Club

EDITORIAL & NEW NEW ZEALAND

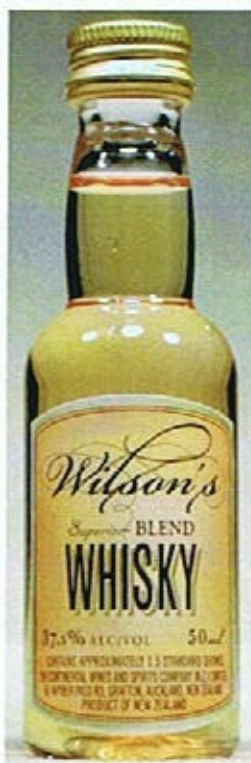
Frankly I can't be bothered doing a full editorial. I am fed up with asking for members to send in articles, bottle photos or anything else to help with miNiZ and almost nobody does. With a couple of exceptions it is your fault that this edition is so late.

CHANGE OF CLUB ADDRESS. The club has always used my company box number but as I sold the company a few weeks ago, it is no longer appropriate to do so. General correspondence should be sent c/o David Smith, 11 Trevor Terrace, Paremata, Wellington, New Zealand. Anything to do with finance should still go to Treasurer, Ian Butcher, 5 Sunburst Court, Paraparaumu, New Zealand.



The cover bottles were organised for the Southern Cross Jim Beam Bottle & Specialties Club by member David Fretwell. On the left is the cover of the box that this set came in. My thanks to Robin Mellish for getting these and the next bottles for me.

The bottles shown on the right are in the "when is a mini not a mini" category. Apart from the fact that they are 100ml they are not drinks in their own right. They are syrups designed to be added to 'Champagne' (or



preferably cheap plonk!). On the basis that I have things like Roses Lime juice and Robinson's cordials from the 1950's in my collection I felt justified in adding these. What do you think?



Finally, we have a new version of Wilson's Whisky that I found in a hotel bar fridge recently. Unfortunately it is plastic but then you can't have everything.

David

ON MY TRAVELS

Rosie and I attended the Mid-West Miniature Bottle Club's 25th annual bottle show in St. Louis in April then had several more weeks travelling in the US. Some of the bottles shown came from the show, some we picked up on our travels and a few I have bought recently on Ebay.

The show was exceptionally well attended and there were more bottles on sale than there usually are. Having said that, I was personally a little disappointed in the number I picked up there but that was a reflection of what I collect, rather than the show itself.



This set of Budweiser micros shows the history of both the bottle and the labels. It is hard to come by. The three 'cans' are actually packets of mints.



I have spares of all the bottles above, other than the one on the right, if anyone wants them. The Tequila and Budweiser Millennium are identical labels to ones put out a couple of years ago but these are on frosted bottles. The Corona Light is a completely re-designed label. I am sure that you will agree that the set of 5 Sweetwater Beer bottles are great with colourful and detailed labels.



The 6 beers produced for the Monte Carlo Resort & Casino Pub & Brewery in Las Vegas are real gems as I understand they are next to impossible to get hold of. Until I was writing this article I thought that I had bought a packet of 6 all the same and that there had only been one bottle made, which is why the Jackpot Ale has been photographed separately. I picked one out of the box to examine it more closely and discovered it was different from the one I had already photographed, as were the

others. The other 5 certainly are a bonus.



All the cans are a little bit more than 1" high. The first 4 are plastic with the Lowenbrau being the pick of the bunch as Lowenbrau do not normally allow replicas like this to be made. The three on the right are all salt shakers. The first two are 1960's cardboard and the Black Label is plastic and probably a decade or two newer.



The 9 keyring crown opener bottles on the left were bought at the Anheuser Busch brewery in St. Louis. The left hand one of the bottom has been included to show the back. These are all solid plastic but very true to the current beer label.



I have met Mary & Don McDaniel at several shows now. This time he gave me this Jack Daniels bottle, which, apart from the extra label he has added to the back and sides, is unremarkable. As you can see they did this to celebrate their wedding but the unusual element is on the side label that says Juror # 7 loves #14 – which is where they met, on jury service.



Which naturally leads on to my next bottle, Xplode. I have shown this front on and sideways and any way you look at it you cannot help but

realise that it is a sperm. Plastic, somewhat tacky but hey, a great bottle in its own way.

At the beginning of the next page we have the two show bottles. I say two because the Black Jack bottle was a gift to all attendees. Note that there are two versions of this bottle, something I had never realised until the show. The other has the ace of hearts and jack of spades. The show jug has again been made in the Czech Republic by Jaroslav Kuba. Unfortunately it is a silver bottle which makes it exceedingly difficult to

photograph. It depicts the St. Louis skyline and the arch that was erected for the World's Fair and is so much a symbol of St. Louis.



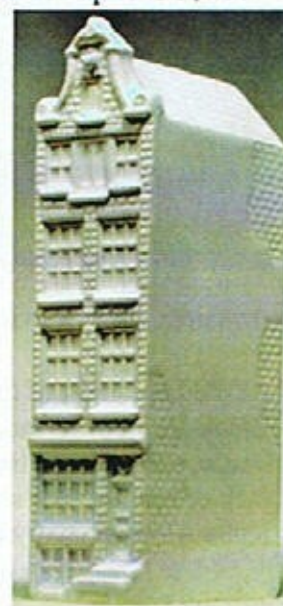
The Bunratty Castle jug was one I picked up in a junk shop in the Wairarapa for \$4.

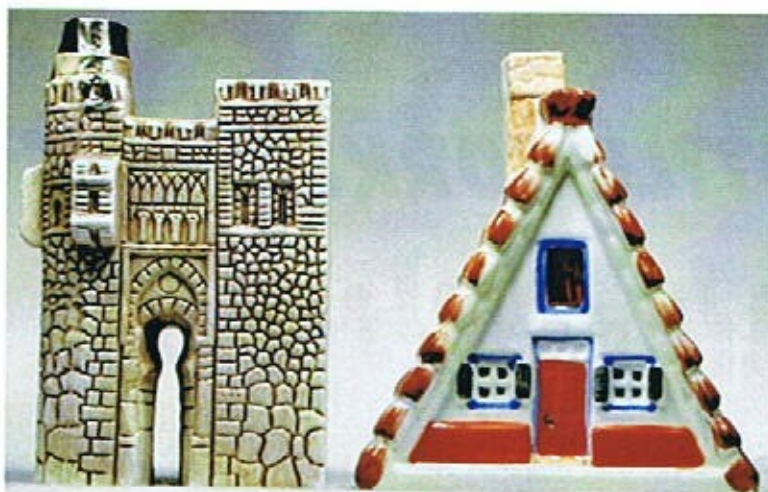


Next we have 5 Ski Country bottles that I picked up in a junk shop in Bardstown, Kentucky. They are the Dall Sheep, Bobcat, Cougar, Basset Hound and the Fox on Log. This last bottle used to sell for up to US\$400 but was being sold at the show for US\$160. I paid US\$10 for each of these bottles!

The building on the right will be familiar to many of you. It is part of a set of canal houses put out about 10 years ago. The thing that makes this different is that they have forgotten to paint the blue on. My thanks to David Spaid for selling this to me.

Whilst on the subject of buildings, I start off the next page with one I bought at the show and one from Ebay. The castle gate is missing it's label but the label over the cap says Ortega – which is





as much as I know about it. The A frame house comes from the Azores by way of Canada and Ebay. It was made by Eduardo Ferriera and contains anisette.

The Larsen Cognac Viking ship has long been a favourite of collectors. Originally in glass, it has appeared in ceramic versions for a number of years. The three shown are the latest iterations and are all in pastel colours; green, blue and peach.



Next we have a number of 'special' micro mini bottles, mainly bought on Ebay. The first one is the exception and is a real gem. Clarkes Pure Rye was bought in an antique mall in St. Louis. It is a snuff bottle. The top pulls off and has a quill

attached for scooping out the snuff. My guess is that it would be about 100 years old.



The next two are lighters from the 1950's, neither of which I had ever seen pictured anywhere until they came up for sale. The Mary Ann Beer is from Jersey and I am assuming that that means Jersey in the Channel Islands not New Jersey or Jersey City in the US. The Grunhalla is from Germany.

The final bottle, the Pepsi Cola, was described as a metal bottle. I was fairly

sure that it was a lighter and bid accordingly, although I got it at a price somewhere in between what a bottle and a lighter would have been worth. Sure enough, when I received it, I was able to carefully pry it apart to show the wick and flint.

David

MINI BOTTLE CORKSCREWS



There are a few different types of mini bottle corkscrews but undoubtedly the most prolific, and the most collectable, are the Williams Patent ones. Depending on the logo and condition these fetch anything from US\$20 to hundreds of dollars each. There are at least a couple of hundred known labels and undoubtedly many more out there that have never been listed.

On June 1, 1897 William A. Williamson was granted U.S. Patent #583,561 for his invention of a corkscrew which is concealed inside a small bottle or bullet shape. The ends thread together and when unscrewed, a helix pivots at an angle to the base. (see photo on next page) The two pieces are then screwed back together to form the handle. Advertising plaques were applied to the bottles.

On the right we have undoubtedly the most common of these types of mini bottle corkscrew (other than ones with no label at all), Anheuser Busch. There is also a version of this with horizontal writing.

I also have two other relatively common ones of these, John Dewar and Sons Old Highland Whisky and Dewars White Label Scotch (not shown). However, the one on



the right on the last page is a Dewars Imperial Whisky and this is a variation that I have never seen listed anywhere.



On September 4, 1900 Ralph W. Jorres was granted U.S. Patent #657,421 for his version of this corkscrew. Jorres attached the helix to the top of the bottle instead of the base. He got away with it but I wonder how much litigation would follow if someone tried that today! Other than the name on the bottom the two are practically identical from the outside.

The opened corkscrew above is one of the few not advertising a particular brand of drink. It is difficult to read but says "Crooked but he's got a pull."

Some of the Williamson bottles had stanholes (magnifiers) in the top. When held up to the light a photo can be seen through the viewing hole. Unfortunately, the photo was delicate and finding one complete is rare.



above we see two modern mini bottle corkscrews. These are plastic and have a fixed screw. Each is about 75mm (3") high. They were made for Flying Fish Café and Citricos. To say that I prefer the older ones is a gross understatement!

There have been a large number of 'half round' fixed screw bottles made, many that are also 'fridge magnets'. I don't collect half rounds so I cannot show you any of these but I have seen them in France, Australia and California with wine labels.

David Smith

IT WAS ENOUGH TO MAKE A GROWN MAN CRY

Reprinted from the GLMBC newsletter

Early last summer I was reading the, "For Sale" section of the "Philadelphia Daily News." About halfway down the section was an ad that read, "For Sale Miniature Liquor Bottle Collection, Old, 1000 Pieces... \$500.00." Even a dummy like I knew that computed to 50 cents a bottle. Remember, the ad included the adjective, "Old." When was the last time you were able to buy any new bottle for 50 cents? Old bottles are sought by all collectors today because they have proven to be the most valuable. Certainly, a hell-of-a-lot more than 50 cents each.

I made a call to the number listed and made an appointment to view the collection the following day. As we all know, the "Rush" that the collector gets when finding a bottle (or bottles) new to him, or the anticipation of finding the bottles when he (or she) sets out on a "Bottle Hunt" is almost as good as actually obtaining the bottle(s) itself. It's sort of like the "Randy Feeling of Expected Sex" before the actual consummation of the act... If at 75 years of age, I remember correctly. Needless to say, I slept fitfully that night in eager anticipation and hope of what the next day would bring.

The next morning I drove to a delightful old section of Philadelphia nestled in the very shadow of the fabled Philadelphia Museum of Art. Those of you not familiar with Philadelphia, are probably familiar with the Art Museum because it's greatness and reputation were enhanced by the genre of "Rocky" movies made famous by Sylvester Stallone. Part of his training regimen was depicted in the famous scene where he ran all the way up the steps in his sweat suit and woollen cap and thrust his arms skyward when he reached the top step. Stallone made the "Italian Stallion" so famous, that Philadelphia has erected a larger than life statue of him at the entrance to the sports complex in South Philadelphia where the mythical, heroic Rocky supposedly was born and raised.

Anyhow, I found the correct house, and knocked on the door. The wife of the owner of the collection answered my knock with a smile on her face. As an aside, I'd like to mention here that this house when purchased many years ago sold for \$5000 - \$6000. Today the woman told me that they were moving because they had just sold the house for \$350,000. They didn't want to take the collection with them, hence its impending sale. It seems that her husband's employer had formerly owned the collection. He gave it to her husband because he was no longer interested in it. She lead me to the door of her basement and heart quickened even more as she said to me, "The \$500.00 price is not firm, we can negotiate if you are interested." At \$500.00 it was a steal... At less than \$500.00 it was grand larceny!

Next came the disappointment on the same scale as my earlier elation. When we reached the basement, "It Was Enough To Make A Grown Man Cry" (hence the title of my tale.) On one small section of wall were Mohawk, Garnier and Meier (I hope I spelled that correctly) jugs... without labels of any kind on any of the jugs. To me, they were worthless. Others might have taken them, although I don't know why. In a metal hamper were glass minis wrapped in old newspaper stuck together in a gelatinous mess caused by broken, and/or leaking bottles. When I say mess, that doesn't begin to describe this ruined, once wonderful collection. I went through this nightmare and was

able to salvage 9 bottles. The collection itself was by the way nowhere near the 1,000 bottles mentioned in the ad. It was more like 300 bottles which would have been great... if the bottles were also great. To make this long story a little shorter, I paid the lady \$4.50 for the 9 bottles and left... a sadder but wiser man.

One word of advice I would offer you my fellow club members is never, I repeat never wrap any bottle in newspaper only, prior to storing them. The newsprint eventually will stain the labels and no amount of cleaning will really suffice. Always wrap the bottles in paper towelling first, then you can wrap them in newspaper. In this manner, the white towelling will keep the bottles clean and protected from the outer wrapping of newspaper. Also, make sure the caps are on tight, and that they are stored upright if possible. Also, do not store them in a hot area such as an un-air-conditioned closet or storage facility. The heat in these places facilitates evaporation greatly.

In passing, a few of these 50 cents beauties to satisfy your curiosity were, Portofino Brandy, Factory Whistle Vodka, Seagram's VO Canadian Whiskey (with a 1927 tax stamp), Seagram's Pedigree Straight Bourbon Whiskey (1929). I sold these and the others that escape my memory for enough to make my \$4.50 investment a better than great acquisition.

In the movie, "The Maltese Falcon" Sam Spade (No, not David Spaid) is asked by a befuddled police sergeant played by Ward Bond, what the bilious black bird is that he is holding. Bogie's retort is a movie classic. He said, "It's The Stuff Dreams Are Made Of." My dreams were dashed when I viewed the morass that was once a great collection. But, for a day it was what my dream was made of. I put my arm around my wife's shoulder and said, "Yo Adrian"... Let's go home.

Norm Luber

I had a very similar experience on my travels through the US in 1999. Prior to my trip I had been corresponding with someone to buy two or three hundred Jim Beam personalised bottles, which I has been assured were "In good condition." The couple were living in Oklahoma, not far from Oklahoma City. As I knew that I would be going in that direction early on in my travels, I arranged to call and collect them, much to their amazement, rather than have them shipped to me in New Zealand. Lucky for me that I did!

The couple that owned them were very nice people, and I'm sure had not purposely set out to deceive me, but these bottles had been in the basement of their previous house – when it had burnt down!

They were both smoke and water damaged and many had been wrapped in, you've guessed it, newspaper. They had then been stored somewhere damp, or possibly they had not been dry when wrapped, as many were also mouldy. Of the ones I wanted, only about a dozen were worth having (I advised them to drink the rest but they were tea total!). Still, I got a free night's camping, a good meal and some pleasant company for an evening. I'm just glad that I hadn't gone out of my way.

David Smith

MR LUCKY SERIES 1

I know that most all mini bottle collectors have heard of and seen some of the Mr. Lucky Leprechaun miniature decanter bottles issued by the Hoffman Distillery or the Hoffman Collector Club. Unfortunately, both the Distillery and the Collector club no longer are around. The bottles they produced are still here, & if you are lucky enough to find any, you will have a real treasure.

Recently I met with Ed Wertheimer, the former Hoffman Distillery & club owner. During our conversation, I learned a tremendous amount of information about these mini bottles, & I thought this would be a great way to share this information with other collectors.

This is the first of several articles that will cover all 43 mini bottles issued as part of the Hoffman Originals Mr. Lucky mini decanters. To start off there were actually 5 separate series, plus a number of special and club mini decanter bottles produced from 1973 to 1989. While full size minis were made of most all the Mr. Lucky decanters, I will only be talking about the Miniatures.

Below is a picture of the six miniature porcelain decanters that make up the Mr. Lucky Series 1. First, and most famous, is the original Mr. Lucky. 5000 minis were issued in 1973. Also in 1973, 2500 Mr. Harpist minis were issued. In 1974, the remaining 4 mini decanters were introduced. It included Mrs. Lucky, Mr. Cobbler, Mr. Doctor, and Mr. Sandman. There were 2500 Mrs. Lucky & Mr. Cobblers issued, 3000 minis of Mr. Doctors were issued, & 1800 Mr. Sandmans minis were issued.

Notice that the last 2 leprechauns had animals. The Mr. Doctor had a frog, & Mr. Sandman had a rabbit. Irish Folk Lore frequently made mention of several animals, including Rabbits, Frogs, Dogs, Worms, and Chipmunks. With this in mind, the Hoffman Original designers incorporated these animals in the bottle design, and finally settled on a chipmunk as the main animal which would appear on most all their later decanters.

The next Newsletter will cover the Hoffman Original Mr. Lucky Series 2 mini leprechaun decanters.



Reprinted from Gulliver's Gazette the newsletter of the Lilliputian Mini Bottle Club

Jim Crawford

MR LUCKY CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS

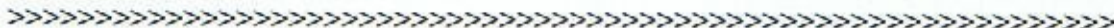
I know the items pictured below are not mini bottles, but they sure go with mini bottles. Several years ago I bought these from Butch Jones and I thought this would be a good time to show them.

As you can see, these are porcelain Christmas Ornaments of the Hoffman Original Mr. Lucky, Series One. Only 500 sets were made and issued in 1972. This set is identical to the Mr. Lucky decanters that were eventually produced a few months later. From left to right, they include Mr. Lucky, Mr. Harpist, Mrs. Lucky, Mr. Cobbler, Mr. Doctor, and Mr. Sandman. All are 3 1/2 inches tall, and are perfect for the mini bottle collector who has the Mr. Lucky mini decanters in their collection. A set of mini Christmas Bells with the six Mr. Lucky figurines was also produced to go with the ornaments.



Reprinted from Gulliver's Gazette the newsletter of the Lilliputian Mini Bottle Club

Jim Crawford



I picked up these bottles from Scenic Cellars in Taupo. The first bottle is The Tyrconnell Single Malt from Ireland. This is a variation of a bottle I picked up a couple of years ago. This bottle has a picture of a racehorse on it which is appropriate as the whiskey is named after the racehorse. The second bottle is also a single malt and is the only one of the three which comes in a glass bottle. The producer is McDowell and the bottle is an attractive dark green colour ridged around the neck and base. By the way the whisky is made in India and at \$3.50 is probably the cheapest single malt you will buy. The last bottle is also from McDowell's. It is their Celebration XXX Rum and comes in a brown etched bottle and also costs \$3.50

Frank Wynn

COKES FROM BRAZIL

Plastic bottles, who would want plastic bottles? Well for one I do if they are of the quality shown here. These two sets have been made recently, the first mini Cokes to come out of Brazil so far as I am aware. All are 80mm (3.2") high and, unfortunately, all are made of plastic and are empty.

The first set was made in 2003 for the youth market, hence the name Vibezone. There are 12 bottles in total. Seven are just vivid colours but the other 5 have full colour wrap around cartoon type labels. They feature someone playing with a Play Station, someone with a stereo system, two youths kissing, someone skateboarding and someone playing soccer.



The second set was made this year for the Athens Olympics. There are 8 bottles with pictures of athletes, plus one commemorating the torch being carried through Rio de Janeiro and one for each medal, gold, silver and bronze. The sports represented are Atletismo (Athletics), Basquete (Basket Ball), Judo (Judo strangely enough), Natacao (Swimming), Latismo (Yachting) and Volei de Praia (Beach Volley Ball – a favourite with couch potatoes everywhere!). There is also cycling and gymnastics but as I am missing these two bottles I cannot give you the names in Portuguese.

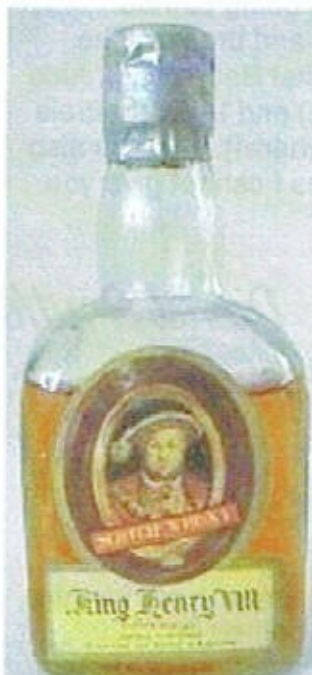
David Smith

NEW SEGRAMS VODKAS

Again we have Jim Crawford to thank for the photos below. Jim writes: This new set of Seagram's Miniature Vodkas were actually distilled & bottled in Lawrenceburg, Indiana. Lawrenceburg is just a 20 minute drive from my house in Cincinnati, Ohio. Although these minis are plastic, they do have very colourful labels, and the bottles are embossed like the older glass bottles. I know all you Vodka collectors will want to have this new set of flavoured Vodkas in your collection.



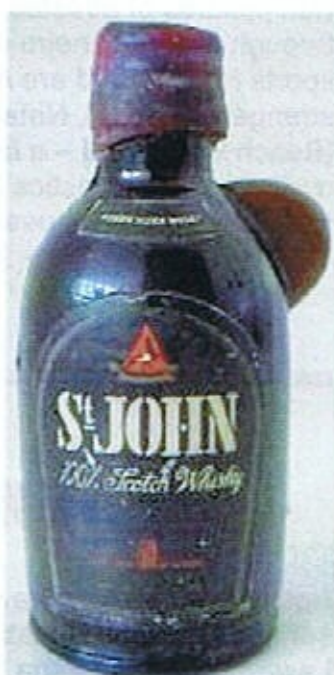
SCOTCH ON EBAY #2



Back in issue 64 we had the first Scotch on Ebay article and I thought that it was about time that we had another.

We start this time with King Henry VIII. Henry is in a short clear bottle with a long neck and lead seal over a cork cap. The label is multicolour. This bottle was well sort after and sold for US\$26

Although Henry was no saint, John obviously was. St. John was bottled in Argentina and a label on the rear shows that it was sold/given away by Aerolineas Argentinas, the



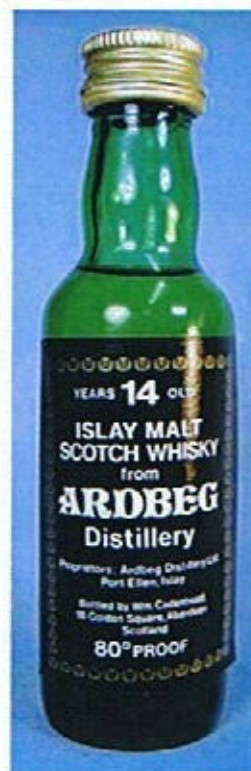
national airline, although probably quite some time ago by the looks of it. The bottle is very dark glass (black?) with a black label with white writing and some red highlights. Surprisingly it only fetched US\$10.99



Kings Men is from the Thin Man series. These Scotches are well known to US collectors but rarely seen in NZ. The bottle is actually a test tube, the label yellow and the writing a mixture of colours. Nice bottle but difficult to display. It sold for US\$9.50

Ardbeg 14year old malt is from the Island of Islay. It is a plain round green bottle with a black label with white writing and a border of gold thistles. It sold for US\$18

I have always liked the 'watch'

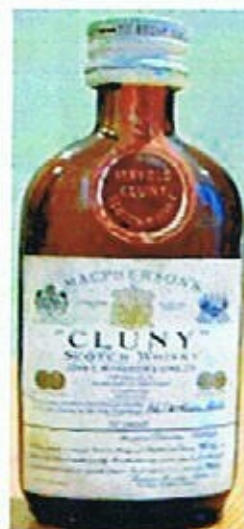




shape bottles and the Bob Hope Classic is no exception. This bottle was made by member David Maund's company, Mini Bottles (UK) Ltd, in 1983. The bottle is clear glass and the label white with a red and blue central logo. It sold for US\$15.50

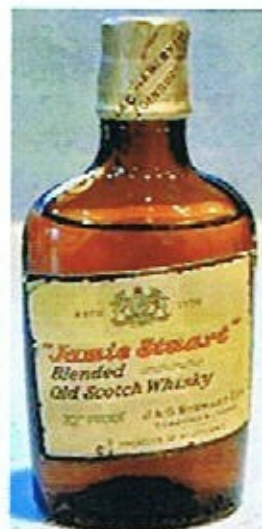
Harvey's Thin Red Line Special Scotch Whisky is in a green flask and is bottled at 70 Proof. It sold for £7.50.

Cluny is another old Scotch flask, this time a brown one. It is made by Macpherson's and is 70 Proof. It sold for £6.26 after 8 bids.



The bidding was spirited (no pun intended) for Sandy Macdonald Special Scotch Whisky. This is another brown flask at 70 Proof. Unlike the last two, that had very plain black on white labels, this is a parchment colour label with a yellow panel and the name in red. It sold for £22.09

Jamie Stuart Old Scotch Whisky has a label with similar colouring to the last bottle. Again it is a brown flask at 70 Proof. It sold for £9.20



Frankly I am amazed that there was so much interest in the next bottle. These turn up all the time in NZ and you cannot give them away. There were 15 bids in all and the winner bought this for £9.50. This White Horse Scotch Whisky flask was bottled in 1959 and, again, at 70 Proof. As for the last few it is a brown flask.



The seller of the next bottle did not favour us with a photo of the whole thing but this struck me as such an unusual bottle that I thought I would show it to you anyway. Hamashkeh Scotch has a red and black on parchment label and is in a clear 5cl flask. It is bottled at 40% or 80 proof. What makes it so unusual

(apart from the name) is that it is a Kosher whisky. It sold for US\$5.50, which struck me as cheap.





OE Scotch Whisky comes from a vast collection that belonged to a local Vicar whose parishioners collected them from around the world. This round, green, slightly dumpy bottle has a cream coloured label and a gold foil top. Unfortunately this, and the next few pictures are not of high enough quality to tell you more. It sold for £10.50



The Old Black Swan is from the same collection. It has a plain paper label with black writing and, of course, a black swan. It sold for £6.01

Curious Old Monastos Scotch Whisky is also known as "Old Curio". It is a plain paper label again but this time on a crock with a brown glazed top and a red seal. This one sold for £10.50 also.



The House of Rintoul Blended Liqueur Scotch Whisky is in a similar bottle to OE. It even has the same type of foil top. The label is cream with red, gold and black writing and a gold and black crest. After spirited bidding (no pun intended) it sold for £16.01



I can't for the life of me think why anyone would pay £8.00 for the White Label bottle from John Dewar & Sons Ltd. These again are common as muck in New Zealand and it is not possible to sell them for more than 50 cents or a dollar. Still it takes all sorts and I guess if you don't have it, and some other collector does not have it, that's where the seller does well in an auction situation.



White Label was the last bottle I have to show you from the Vicar's collection. On the right we have two nice round, clear glass bottles, both with screw caps. Bladnoch Lowland Malt Scotch Whisky is 8

years old and was made by Arthur Bell & Sons. It sold for £5.70. Tamdhu went for twice as much, £11.65. The bottle is more than 20 years old and the Scotch in it is 10 years older than that.



I'll bring you more in a future edition.

David Smith



Q I have heard that if you drink a can of beer through a straw you will become intoxicated more quickly. Many of my friends have heard it too. Is it an urban myth or is it true and if so, why?

A1 I don't know if you get drunk more quickly by the effect of drinking through a tube, but if it is a myth, it is a longstanding one. In Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* (written in the late 1300s), the Manciple says (in the Prologue to the Manciple's tale) of the cook's drunkenness:

"You'd think he had been drinking monkey wine, and that's when one goes playing with a straw!"

Other lines refer to the cook's colour, breathing, etc. In the notes on the lines, the translator Nevill Coghill refers to a letter he had received from a young doctor at the London docks. Men were occasionally brought to him for attention after having been found insensibly drunk in a wine warehouse, with similar colour and breathing problems to those described by Chaucer. The doctor was told that they had been "sucking the monkey", which meant drilling a tiny hole in a cask of wine and sucking it through a straw.

A2 As a former student I can testify to the definite financial advantages of drinking beer through a straw. For an even cheaper inebriation, beer can be "eaten" from a bowl with a soup spoon.

A3 The Russian version of this old belief, that drinking alcohol in small quantities enhances the effect drastically, says that nobody is capable of drinking 40 thimbles of vodka, though that amounts to only about 150 millilitres.

A4 We decided that some preliminary research was needed, although of course we stress that no one should drink beyond safe limits (which means not at all if driving a car). To measure the effect of alcohol we adapted three police Standard Field Sobriety Tests, described to us by Wayne Jones of the National Laboratory of Forensic Toxicology in Linköping, Sweden. The tests were the number of times a subject stepped off a 3 metre long straight line when asked to walk along it and back, the time each person could stand on one leg with his or her eyes closed, and the number of errors made in five attempts to touch the tip of their nose with eyes closed.

Ten volunteers came forward from the office for two evenings of tests. Beer was the preferred drink and all our volunteers performed worse if they consumed their alcohol through a straw, rather than swallowing it, with the number of seconds they could stand on one leg halving. These results are only suggestive, of course, as all subjects obviously knew when they were drinking through a straw and could simply have adjusted their expectations. If the effect is real, what is the explanation? It could be that drinking small quantities helps to mix in air which carries alcohol to the nasal cavity where it could be absorbed rapidly into the brain, or perhaps that a more even flow of alcohol boosts absorption efficiency. Only an objective study, perhaps recording blood alcohol levels, could begin to answer these questions.

VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY

This special, and very limited, set of 3 Ski Country mini decanters was issued in 1992 to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of Christopher Columbus' historic event. Called "THE VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY" only 550 numbered sets were produced, with over 400 of those sets being distributed only in Spain, Italy, and Portugal. This set was an immediate success, and quickly sold out. To find this set for sale today is next to impossible.

Jim Crawford



DATE, TIME & PLACE

November 7 th	SI	2.00pm	David Fretwell's, 61 Port Hills Road, Heathcote, Christchurch
November 21 st		12.30pm	Pot Luck Lunch, Ian Butcher's, 5 Sunburst Court, Paraparaumu Beach
January 16 th		12.30pm	Barbecue, David Smith's, 11 Trevor Terrace, Paremata
February	(either 19/20 or 26/27)		AGM to be arranged and members will be informed by letter. (Probably a weekend in the Wellington area. The committee is currently working on a format to replace Patea. If successful the weekend and AGM would be in a different part of the country each year)

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