

Issue 69

Summer 2004/5



MINIIZ

THE NEWSLETTER OF PORT NICHOLSON MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



Australasia's only Miniature Bottle Club

COVER AND NEW NEW ZEALAND

On the cover we have 5 of those "when is a bottle not a bottle" bottles. The top and right hand ones are from two series that are released every year for Christmas and are officially licensed by Coca Cola. Some of the series show the Coke bears and other icons but I only collect these if there is a clear bottle, can or crate of bottles. The middle bottle is about 75mm (3") high and is made of the same material as most Christmas tree ornaments. It is probably an unlicensed bottle from China. Last, but not least, is a plastic Christmas ornament that was given away a few years ago by the American Big Boy hamburger chain.



Above we have two more officially licensed pieces. I have almost shown the one on the left previously (miNiZ issue 57) but that one had Santa holding a Coke bottle and this one has him holding a crate. I have no idea why they would make two so similar. I looked very carefully at the piece on the right as there is no bottle on the other side of the truck and I thought that it may have been missing. However, the sign is much larger and would have been covered by another bottle so I am convinced that it is complete.



The final Christmas ornament photo shows three more officially

licensed pieces. The third ones looks to be more about the bear than bottles but the reverse side shows a full crate.

It has not been long since I produced the last miNiZ so it is surprising that there are so many new New Zealand bottles to show you. The four here were found by Rosie, my partner, on a recent visit to the Waikato. As this is an all colour edition they speak for themselves. I don't know anything about the company, or if any other varieties have been made but I have emailed them and will fill you in in the next miNiZ if they reply.



Those of you who have been in the club many years will remember that for years we had a 'Cocktail of the Month' on the back cover. The cocktail above is on the rear label of the Snapp 'N' Blast – enjoy!

The next three bottles were found on a recent trip to the top of the South Island. Waterloo Dry Gin is the latest offering from Prenzel, best known for their fruit brandies, schnapps and liqueurs. Like all recent Prenzel Bottles it is a plastic. The Medium Sherry is an old bottle made by Wrightson Wines & Spirits especially for the Rotary District 998 Conference, February 23-25, 1979. Chocomint Cream is in a plastic bottle and joins two earlier bottles from Redwood Cellars of



Upper Moutere, near Nelson and that is where I found it. It has been distributed so you may be able to find it in a bottle store near you if you live in NZ. There is

also a set of 9 100ml bottles produced by Redwood Cellars. These are in the same bottles as the 4 Hansa Cellars spirits, shown below, and have wax dipped tops. The set comprises; Apricot Brandy, Blackberry Nip, Boysenberry Port, Butterscotch Cream, Cherry Brandy, Chocomint Cream, Melrose Coffee Liqueur, Mocha Cream and New Zealand Cream.

The bottle on the right, Bella Verde Limoncello was found by Erica Mulder – now you know as much about it as I do.



Some collectors do not count 100ml as a miniature but others do, so for

those that do here are four new bottles from Hansa Cellars (a company I have not heard of before); Allen's Gin, Allen's Whisky, Novaya Zvezda Vodka and Rum. I am surprised that no other company has used the name Novaya Zvezda Vodka previously. A quick search on the Internet shows this to be the Russian name for New Zealand, so it would be an obvious one for a NZ vodka maker to use. The rum is interesting also as the front label just says rum, nothing else. The company name etc. is on a plain white label on the reverse. I apologise for the poor photos of the two Allen's bottles, no matter what I did I could not get a good one. The bottles have a flip-top stopper and the contents of each are at 37%. I found all 4 of these in Redwood Cellars where they also sell these spirits 'off the tap' (meaning bring your own bottle or flagon to our overseas readers – cheap plonk!).



I have not written an editorial in this edition so you are probably wondering why this is an all colour edition. It is partly because we can afford it and partly because we have been slow in producing miNiZ this year (other than this one of course). The members who pay for an all colour edition will have their subscription extended by one edition. The fact that this edition has come out quickly after edition 68 should not be taken as a reflection that we no longer need articles from you. We do, desperately!

On the back cover you will see details for the AGM. Unfortunately, Dianne Opie has sold the farm at Patea and so a 20 year tradition is no more. Our thanks once again to her as, without exception, these have been great weekends and Di has been a great hostess. We have tried to find a format that will still see us having a weekend break. It is in Wellington this year but, if successful, it will be in a different centre each year. See the back cover for details.

David

Most miniature bottle collectors I know are forever popping into liquor stores, antique shops and the like on the off-chance that they might discover another bottle or two to add to their collection.

Colin will then include the details in a new regular feature of miNIZ; to be modestly called "Colin's Corner."

Colin Ryder

OUTTA SIGHT S&V SITE

Reprinted from the GLMBC newsletter

One of my periodic searches for minis and such on the web led me to a great S&V site. I "googled" Schafer & Vater and got the following URL: <http://www.schafer-vater-research.com> The site belongs to Donald Bergseng Sr. Those of you that collect S&V will recognize the name as Donald put out a CD of his collection a while ago. Now he's put his collection and a compendium of other giveaways on line.

In addition to some 700 or pictures of give-aways (including S&V and other makers), the site is jammed full of background information on nips. I got these pictures off Ebay, but I don't doubt that they're also on Donald's site.

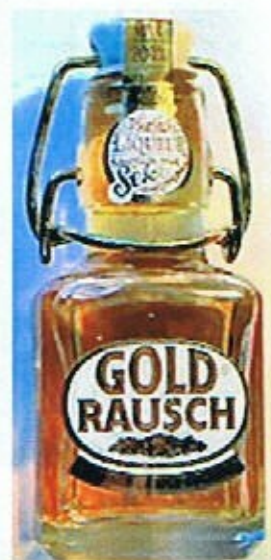
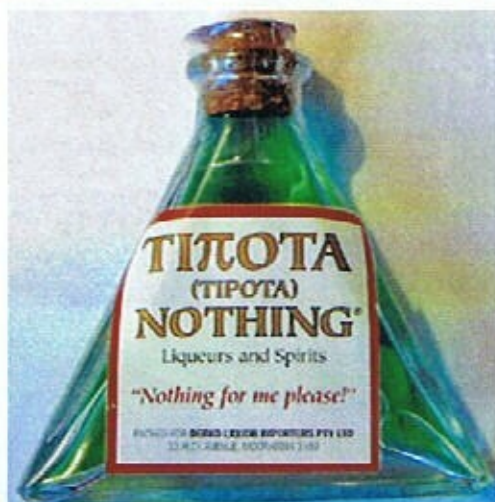


Paul Murray

I have had a look at this Schafer & Vater site and am blown away by it. No article will do it justice – just go and look! (editor)

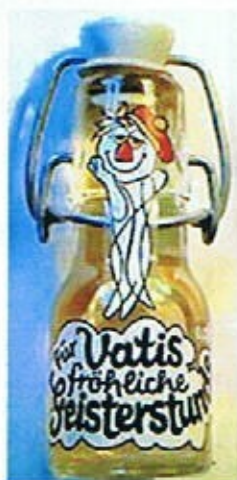
ROBIN'S RECENT

I will let these photos speak for themselves. They are all recent additions to my collection. Many were sent to me as gifts by my daughter who is living in Scotland but who travels extensively with her work.



There is also a red version of this
I hate to think what it tastes like!





Robin Mellish

AS SEEN ON EBAY #8



The Old Time Coalminer #2 mini was produced in 1982 by Old Commonwealth, which was another label for Van Winkle whiskey. It stands 150mm (6") high and is a bisque ceramic. Surprisingly it failed to get a bid, even though the starting price was only US\$6.99.



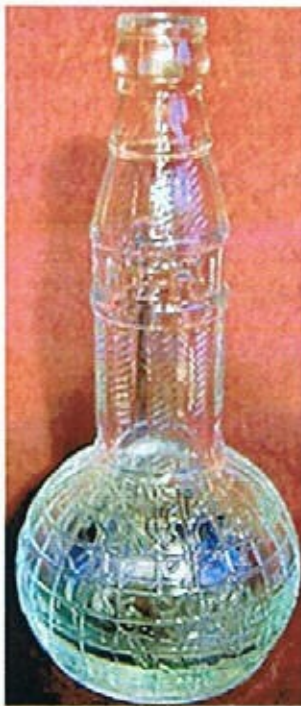
The two bowlers above are actually both sides of the same bottle. This is a German give-away from the early part of the last century. Unlike the miner this did elicit a number of bids, eventually selling for US\$152.49.

Sticking with figurines we have the preacher and his wife from Old Style Colony Winery. The preacher is 184mm (7.25") high and his wife is 171mm (6.75") high and both were made in 1972. These are both bisque ceramics and, like many from that era, were made in Japan but filled in the US. I bought these for US\$9.99 for the pair – a bargain I thought.



On the left we have a cute little cowboy. This too is a give-away. The bottle was made by Schafer and Vater of Germany and has "Las Vegas" on the hat. The bottle is 190mm (7.5") high and the hat is the stopper. Bidding started at US\$75 and ended at US\$128.50.





base. Hopefully you can see the words "Top of the World" on the smaller photograph and a map of the world on the full bottle. It was found in the greenhouse of an old Southern home in the

USA. The age is unknown but it is certainly quite old. It sold for US\$33.05

It would be very rare for me to show you an empty glass bottle but the one at left is something special. This is a Nehi mini soda bottle. It holds about 2.75 fluid ounces and stands 114mm (4.5") high. It is marked Columbus Georgia on the side and "Patent Applied For" on the



The two Robinson's cordials are from the 1950's. I have a few of these as they remind me of my childhood. I do not have these two, but as they do not really fit into my collection, I ignored them. They did not sell and were put up again. This time I forgot to bid and they went for a minimum bid of £3 which seems a bargain to me for such nicely embossed 50 year old bottles.



I know that you Scotch collectors get upset if we do not show a few Scotches so the three bottles on the left are especially for you.

First up we have a Balgownie clear glass flask. The label is white with a gold trim and the writing red and gold. Not a very exciting mini, which was reflected in it only gaining one bid of £2.99 The next bottle, Glen Rothes, garnered somewhat more interest and eventually sold for £8.37 This

is a clear, square glass bottle with a multi-coloured label that has a picture of the distillery on it. Finally we have the hated Tax Collector – the person of course

and not the bottle! This is a plain round glass bottle with a creamy label and was made in 1986. The writing is in black and red. This sold for US\$5.50

Next, on the right, we have the truly weird. This is a German give-away bottle of a roast turkey that would have been given away in the US, presumably around the Thanksgiving holiday. It sold for US\$20.50



From one item gracing the dinner table to another. These rabbits are from Collectors Art, a US company that went out of business long ago. The mini is about 127mm (5") high by 152mm (6") long and is one of a series on animal miniatures, each holding bourbon. Only 1200 of these cute (and tasty) bunnies were made. Notwithstanding the rarity, it failed to even attract a minimum bid of US\$12.99

Unless you lived in China, parts of SE Asia or were starving you would not eat a Cocker Spaniel I'm sure. The mini was made in 1972 by Garnier and was being sold from the collection of Cembra and Avery, best known for their book "A Guide to Miniature Bottles."

Garnier, a well known French liquor company, issued copious quantities of miniature bottles from 1951 to 1971 but



then decided to stop

making them because of the cost, not only of the bottles but also to fill them by hand. In 1972 they were persuaded by mini collectors to re-enter the field and dogs became their second set of six. The Spaniel above is black and white on a green base. It sold for US\$15.50.



The second, third and fourth dogs I have for you (please don't eat these ones either as I had one



as a small child) are all Collies by Garnier. The first, on the last page, is what became the production model. On the bottom it states "Garnier Liqueurs No. 343 Annee 1972 Container made in Italy." It is 114mm (4.5") tall, sandy and white in colour and, like the Spaniel, sits on a green base.



The second was one of the original trial bottles and only 12 of these were made. Again it is sandy and white and on a green base but in this case is only 102mm (4") tall. The third is like the second, except that there is no tree stump behind the dog. It is also a trial bottle and is a 'one of a kind'. The three sold for US\$128.49



Only the French would eat the horse shown on the right. This nag won the Kentucky Derby, as well as other races of course, and is rated as one of the best US racehorses ever. Other than that I can't tell you much about it – except that it sold for a whopping US\$229.08



On the far left is one that got away. This is an Otto's Lager beer lighter. It is about 76mm (3") tall and was probably made in the 1960's. I opened the bidding but bidding was spirited and it eventually sold for US\$79 – the highest I have ever seen a bottle lighter sell for on Ebay and more than I am willing to pay.

Ancient Age did not get away as it sold cheaply. I'm sure that this was because it was described as a "Vintage Beer Bottle!" This one is an opener from the 1950's. It is in reasonable condition and sold for US\$13

David Smith

MR LUCKY SERIES 2

By 1974, the original Hoffman Mr. Lucky series went so well that it was followed by a second series. More and more collectors liked what they saw and had to have these cute looking mini decanters. In this second series more animals from Irish Folk Lore were introduced, including the Worm, Dog, Rabbit, and Chipmunk.

Similar to the first series, six bottles were done in both the miniature and full size decanters. While the full size decanters had music boxes, the miniatures did not have a music box base.

In 1974 the second series of Mr. Lucky decanters was introduced. First was the Mr. Snake Charmer. 1500 of these mini bottles were made showing a leprechaun charming an orange worm. Next came the sad looking Mr. Fiddler. 1500 decanters were produced showing an equally sad Hound Dog. The last Mr. Lucky decanter introduced in 1974 was the Mr. Dancer bottle. 2000 of these mini decanters were issued depicting a leprechaun doing an Irish Jig.

In 1975 the remaining 3 pieces of Series 2 was introduced. The first miniature decanter was the Mr. Saxophonist. Only 1000 of these minis were made showing the Saxophonist playing to a rabbit. Next the Mr. Guitarist was issued. There were 1500 Mr. Guitarist mini decanters made showing another rabbit. The last of the second series of mini decanters was the Mr. Policeman. 4000 of these minis were produced and, for the first time, it had a chipmunk on the decanter. The chipmunk would appear on almost all of the future Mr. Lucky bottles produced by Hoffman Originals.

The next Newsletter will cover the Hoffman Original Mr. Lucky Series 3 mini leprechaun decanters.



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

Jim Crawford

POT POURI

Here is a good mixture of photos taken here and there. There should be something to interest everyone, if not, hard luck!



The first picture is of four attractive Snaps bottles. These were photographed at David Fretwell's house about 2 years ago.

The set is by Rossi D'Asiago of Italy. All are 5cl. The Peach, Strawberry and

Butterscotch are 23% and the Limoncello is 32%. The bottles are flask shaped with dimpling over the surface to make them look like ice.

I am sure that all of you are familiar with the Beneagles Loch Ness Monster but much less often seen is this one by Lambert Bros. of Edinbrough. It is from Pam Fowler's collection.



Staying with Pam we have the Drioli Donkey from 1970 and a lesser known Drioli vase. This is a white vase with a gold handle and trim, and green, yellow and black stripes.

I am not really sure whether the next one is a booze bottle or not. The building is the Hazack Palace Hotel in Budapest. It is part of a series called Budapest City Houses. What makes me doubt whether it had any form of drink in it is that it is labelled Bonbon Hemingway and, of course, bonbon is French for sweet (candy to our US friends).

We will stick with Pam for the next photo. It shows a Pirate's Head. Unfortunately this is unlabelled (can anyone tell us who made put it out?) but the pottery was made by Royal Norfolk. Next is a white cat by Souvenir of Argentina. I

understand that there is also a black one and both contain Scotch. Finally we have the fine looking Cockerel. This is Italian but again has no label so we do not know what it contains.

Member Jim Crawford hunts for one bottle from every country and territory in the world. I recently obtained this bottle from Palestine for him.



It is Replants Madera (note the spelling of Madeira) and probably dates from the 1930's.



Next are three bottles photographed on the last Patea weekend. King Arthur is a brown pottery figure and contains Cornish Mead. He is part of Dianne Opie's collection. Ian Butcher found the Ansett New Zealand First Anniversary Port in an antique/junk shop in Bulls on the way up to Patea. It is one of the harder to find NZ minis. The final bottle should really be on our New New Zealand pages. It was brought to show us by Robin Mellish and comes from Christchurch.

The first picture on the next page is Buttershots. This was given to Diane Opie a couple of years ago as an extra gift for hosting us at Patea. It was somehow appropriate, being a dairy farm we were on.

Late member Dick Cotton organised the making of the next bottle. As you can see it was put out to commemorate the birth of his first grandchild, Irena, on 19th December 1997. Irena was the apple of granddad's eye! I find it interesting that it says 19-12-1997 and not 12-19-1997, which is the American way.



Next up is a real little gem. And I do mean little. This bottle comes in a box that looks like a tiny book. Hopefully you can read the book title "The Story of The Last Swallow" It even comes complete with it's own tiny glass. I saw this in David & Val Fretwell's collection on a visit a couple of years ago.



Speaking of David & Val (no that is not them on the left) they are really keen on the ceramics from Drioli. I saw this figure for sale on Ebay and it is not one I am familiar with. It sold for a mere £4.50 with only one bid.

Finally, an unusual bottle from Spain from my own collection. It's a sort of happy orange and, of course, contains an orange liqueur. It is a glass bottle with plaster moulded around it and then painted.



I hope you enjoyed this miscellaneous selection. More next time.

David Smith



FROM NEW SCIENTIST MAGAZINE



Champagne will keep its fizz if a spoon is suspended in the neck of the bottle as long as the spoon does not touch the liquid. Why is this?



Variants of this question have been sent in many times over the years but we have never published them because the idea that a spoon (or, as sometimes suggested, a silver spoon) could stop champagne from going flat just did not seem sensible.

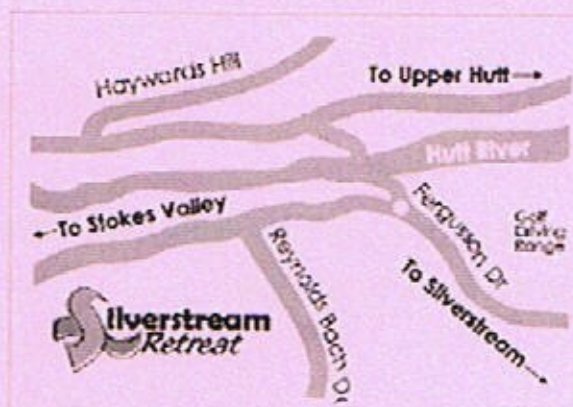
But not wishing to seem narrow minded, we tried a quick test one day. To our astonishment, we found that a half full bottle of champagne left in the office fridge with a teaspoon slipped into its neck easily kept its fizz for 12 hours and was still sparkling after 24 hours.

Had we discovered a new principle of physics? Sadly not. All we had discovered was the old principle of how easy it is to be misled by uncontrolled experiments. When we repeated the experiment more carefully, asking people to blind taste champagne which had been opened and stored either with or without a suspended spoon and rate the fizz against freshly opened champagne on a scale of 0 to 100, the spoon was found to have no effect at all. An opened bottle of champagne just keeps much longer than most people think it will. As the graph shows, both opened bottles decreased in fizz at exactly the same rate and were not rated as totally flat until approximately 96 hours after opening! As few people will regularly have two bottles of champagne open at the same time, if you have stored yours with a suspended spoon, you'll probably attribute its unexpected longevity to the spoon.

It's not uncommon to attach significance to apparently linked events when they are rare and there is no control data. Every day, you'll hear people say: "How amazing, I was just thinking of you and then the phone rang and it was you..." Although we'd all like to be telepathically connected to our friends, what you never remember, of course, is the number of times the phone did not ring.

AGM & ANNUAL WEEKEND

For 21 years we went to Patea but, as that is no longer an option, the committee has come up with a new format. The AGM & Annual Weekend will be in the Wellington area this year but, if successful, it will move around the country in subsequent years.



The venue for 2005 is **Silverstream Retreat**. This is located midway between Lower Hutt and Upper Hutt cities, and 25 minutes from downtown Wellington. The address is 3 Reynolds Bach Drive, Lower Hutt

Phone: 04 563 6376

Fax: 04 563 5284

Web Site: www.staywithus.co.nz

e-Mail: info@staywithus.co.nz

Colin Ryder has booked for 20 people, but this can be increased. Please let Colin know as soon as you read this if you intend to come. His address is 20 Prospect Terrace, Johnsonville Phone: (04) 478 4391 E-Mail: rydercj@xtra.co.nz

The AGM will be on the morning of Sunday 27th, followed by a swapmeet. Those wishing to stay can do so for as long as they want but the nights of 25th & 26th February are booked.

Budget style accommodation is \$20 pp per night (unserviced) or \$25 (serviced). Or they also have two (very good) motel units available - \$120 per unit per night for two plus \$15 for each extra for another two. These are self catering or they can provide quite good food for \$25 per head per day for three meals.

Pool tables, tennis court and barbecue are provided and there are no problems with alcohol (unless of course you get drunk and cause them yourself!). It is intended that on the Saturday we do a tour of all the (worthwhile) Wellington antique shops and bottle stores. Any other suggestions for activities are most welcome.

Don't forget your swaps.

DATE, TIME & PLACE

January 16 th	11.30am	Barbecue, David Smith's, 11 Trevor Terrace, Paremata
February 26/27 th		See above

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