

Issue 71

Spring 2005



MINIIZ

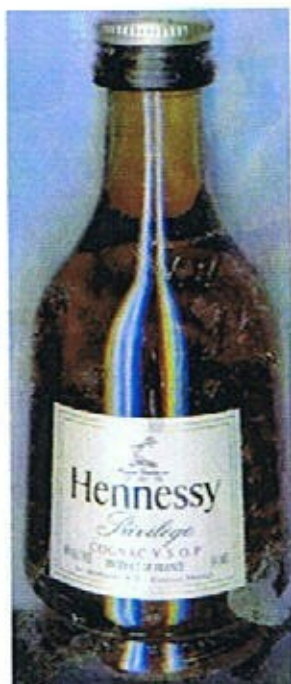
THE NEWSLETTER OF PORT NICHOLSON MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



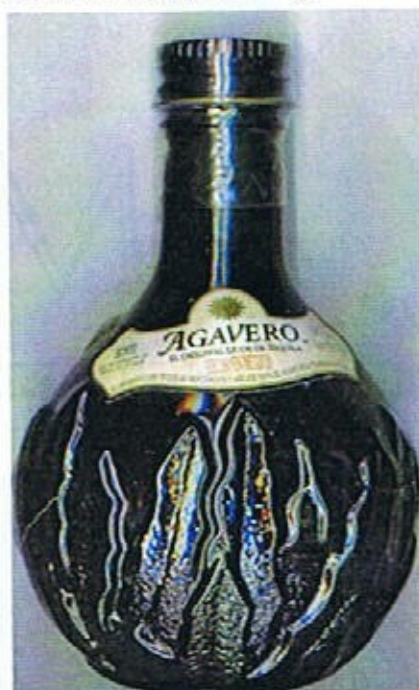
Australasia's only Miniature Bottle Club

Cover and New New Zealand & Editorial

This is a truly international edition. We have ceramics from Peru, the usual As Seen on Ebay mixture, Coke bottles, American jugs, Kuemmerling from Germany and a number of house bottles from Holland and Peru. Just for a change I have included some non-New Zealand bottles on the cover. These three are from Palestine and so pre-date 1948. Palestine bottles are very difficult to get hold of and I was luck enough to pick these up in a small collection I bought. If anyone wants one make me an offer.



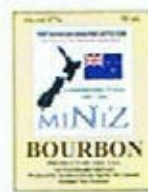
The two bottles shown here are both NZ imports. Hennessy Privilege Cognac V.S.O.P 40% 50ml was imported by Allied Liquor and Agavero El Original Licor de Tequila 32% 48ml was imported & Distributed by Lion Nathan. My thanks to Erica for these.



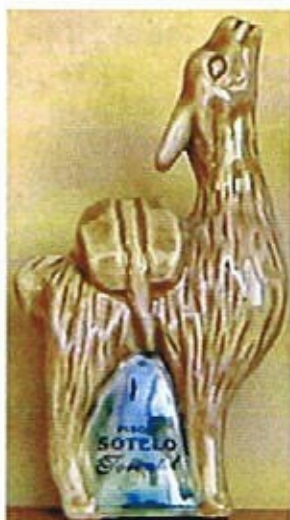
Mini Bottle collecting is certainly shrinking in some parts of the world but seems to be expanding in others. A number of the US clubs are currently struggling and our membership is shrinking also, although not yet disastrously. It would be very little more

trouble to print 120 copies of miNiZ as it is to print the current 60. Ideas as to how to increase our membership have always been welcome. We know that there are other collectors in NZ who would benefit from the club and there must be plenty overseas who would subscribe if they knew about us. Think about it!

The club has not been very active this year promoting bottles for sale but that will change with our 25th Anniversary Set (5 bottles in a presentation box) due out next February. A pre-view of four of the label proofs is shown below (gin is missing). The cost is not yet set but will be reasonable. Get your order in to Supplies Officer, Erica Mulder, 37 Park Road, Titirangi, Auckland. There is enough for one set per member but, inevitably, some members will not want a set so if you want more than one, first come, first served.



David Smith



CERAMICS FROM PERU

When we think of bottles from Peru most collectors would think first about the black Inca Pisco bottles. The first of these imported into New Zealand were from Peru but a careful reading of the labels will show that later ones were from Italy. I have also seen some very



similar bottles from Spain and some gold and pink ones from Peru. I am not going to show you any of those today.

In miNiZ 71 I showed you a set of 5 Sotelo Books and a curious mini that looked like a ball with horns. Earlier this year a number of other Peruvian minis were for sale on Ebay and I thought it appropriate to show these in their own article, rather than in **'AS SEEN ON EBAY.'** All these minis (except as shown) contain 50ml of 42% Pisco and all are limited editions.



These 5 Duck jugs were made in 2003. They failed to sell for a minimum bid of US\$35.99



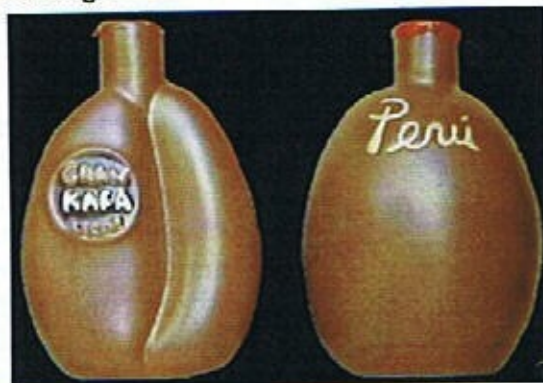
On the left is the gold version of a typically dressed woman from the Spanish colonial times in the city of Lima, Peru. There are several other colours. These were made by Viejo Porron and this one sold for US\$20.49. A pair, one blue, the other cream, sold for US\$24.99

The four Llamas on the right sold for US\$40.99 but each



was also for sale separately also. You were much better off buying the set. The ones to the sides of our heading sold for US\$14.05 and US\$26.99 respectively, the one grazing sold for US\$13.50 and the sitting one fetched US\$14.99

On the right are back and front views of a coffee bean. This is the only Peruvian bottle that does not contain Pisco. This, of course, has a coffee liqueur in it. It failed to get a minimum bid of US\$10.99



The next three minis are obviously from the same mould but the painting makes them look different. They are a replica of an ancient Inca pottery called Aribalo.



The first and second ones sold for US\$11.99 each, the other one failed to get a minimum bid of US\$15.99

The first of our two rude bottles is a replica of an erotic pottery from a pre-Inca culture from the north of Peru called Mochica. It represents a man with an oversize penis. It sold for US\$16.49. Next we have two views of a couple making love (or maybe just having a bonk – who would know their intentions!). This is another replica from the Mochia culture. It sold for US\$16.99.



I will bring you more Peruvian Mini pictures in a later edition.

The End

David Smith

AS SEEN ON EBAY #11



The pair of Garnier flower decanters date from the 1970's and are about 127mm (5") tall. They are rarely seen for sale, which is why the pair sold for US\$32.59

Rynbende made three glass bottles wrapped in raffia in the



shape of characters in the 1970's. The snowman and the chimney sweep are seen reasonably often, but not so the sailor. After spirited bidding this sold for US\$21.50



This bust of an Italian woman was made in the 1960's by Gagliano of Italy. It is about 108mm (4.25") tall and sold for US\$11.57



Fratelli Pescara Vlahov made the set of athletes for the XVII Olimpiad in Rome. This set was sold with some crazing on each bottle and that was clearly reflected in the price of US\$20 for all five. The Vlahov Olympians are one of only a few mini bottles that fakes have been made of but these are probably original with the crazing.

The dancer in gold at left was made by Manhattan during the 1930's or 40's. There were three different gold dancers made, each about 127mm (5") high –



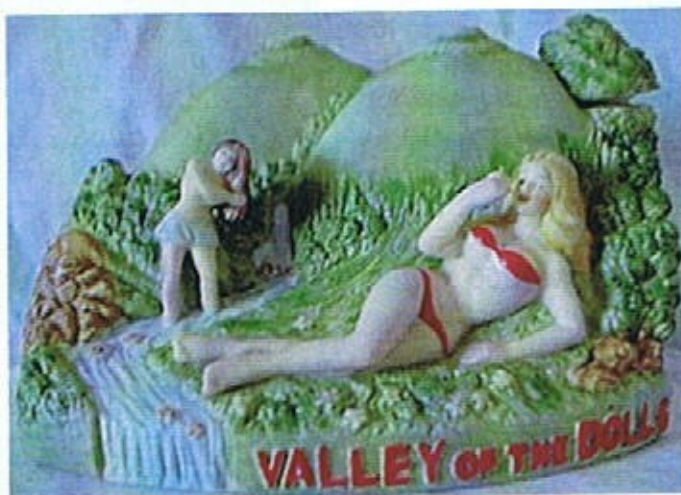
but this is not one of them. This is the far rarer 38mm (1.5") version, which may or may not have been made of all three of the 5" versions. It came complete with a label showing it was filled with Peach Cordial. It sold for US\$39.99, but I would have expected more.

At left is one of the 5" gold Manhattan Dancers, this one filled with Peach and Honey Cordial. It fetched US\$35

In the last issue of miNiZ I brought you an Egyptian Priestess, now we have an Egyptian King. This mini

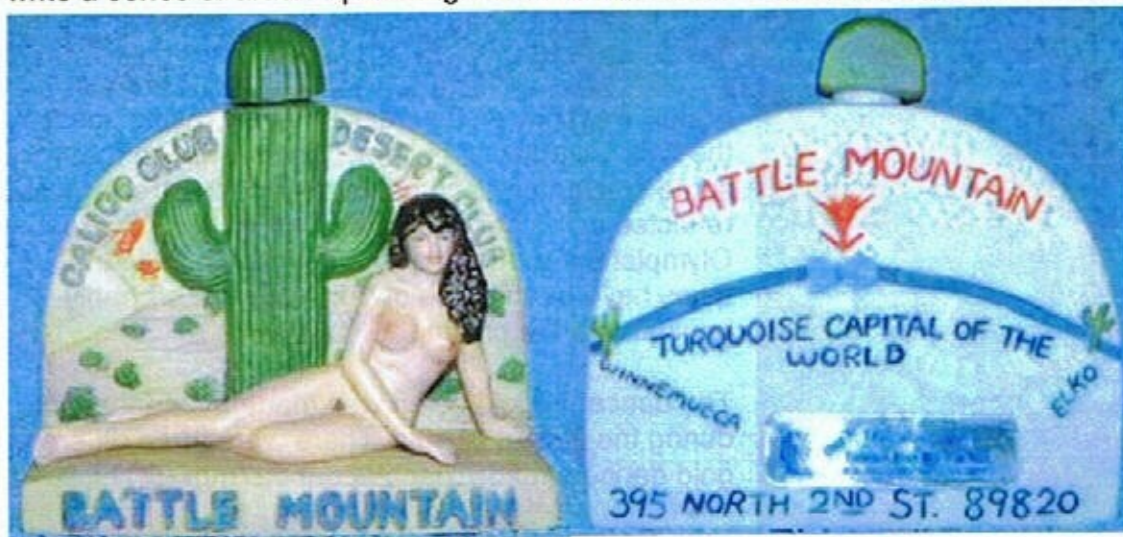


dates from the 1970's, was made by Toschi of Italy and is about 133mm (5.25") tall. It sold for US\$31.75



The Valley of the Dolls decanter is #37 of a series of 46 Nevada Brothel decanters made by Dug Picking, this one in 1990. Don't you just love the hills! (and the cactus

in the next bottle!) Like the others there is a map on the back showing the location. In this case it is near Lathrop Wells, which is near Death Valley. The area of Lathrop Wells has now changed it's name to the Amargosa Valley, so the map is no longer accurate. This was a great series and one of these days I will write a series of articles picturing them all. Some of this series have been a good



investment (as well as a good talking point – I have them prominently displayed in my bar!). It sold for US\$85. I thought you might also like to see both sides of the Calico Club or Desert Club. 1500 were produced in 1989 and they leave little to the imagination. Surprisingly this failed to attract a minimum bid of £39.99. Dug's Brothel Decanter Guide lists this at US\$120 – but then Dug always was an optimist!

On the back page of issue 68 we featured an article by Jim Crawford showing the three Ski Country 'Voyage of Discovery' bottles. Jim's last words were "To find this set for sale today is next to impossible." Well, a set was for sale on Ebay in April with a 'Buy it Now' option of US\$299.95; and somebody did just that.



The cute dog decanter is probably Italian and was probably made in the 1970's. Without a label neither the seller, or myself, are able to be more precise, although it may be by the same company that brought us the cat in the last issue of miNiZ. It sold for US\$9.99. We know a bit more about the peacock. It was made in Japan by Isiah in the early 1970's. It sold for US\$11.05



Keeping up the animal theme we have a real gem. This little (82mm) elephant is from Meier's Wine Cellars and dates from the 1930's. It contains 2ozs of Ohio Sherry Wine. After spirited bidding it sold for US\$28.68



It is rare to find a Drioli vase for sale that I have not seen before but just such a vase is shown in the bottom left corner on the last page. It sold for £5.50



The three Sempe Limoge Crowns have long been admired in my own collection. They are shown sitting on top of their boxes and without the lovely gold cross stoppers attached. Each contains 50ml of very good Armagnac. The red crown is the crown of Henry IV, the green of Napoleon and the blue of Louis XIV. They sold for US\$128.50 after 20 bids – probably still a good buy at that price.



The 'Champagne' bottle shown on the right is the same as one I picked up in the US in 1999. It was described as a lighter and pencil but it is a cigar piercer, not a pencil, that comes out when you turn it. I seem to recall paying about US\$20 for mine (which is in better condition). This one sold for US\$10.52



Lionstone made the mini on the left of the man taking a bath in 1977 as part of their Western Series. It sold for US\$20.50



I would have thought that the average price would be very much on the low side if you sold twelve Italian figures at once. However these 12 by Casa Vinicola Boccaccio from the 1960's fetched a very respectable US\$202.53 (\$16.88 average). In separate auctions the little drummer on the right was sold for US\$7.99 & £8.50



We start this page with one of my favourite bottles. The cat and bird is one of a series of 'moving picture' bottles issued in Italy around 1960. This one has the Drioli label but some have other labels and some were issued by more than one company. The moving picture is actually an optical illusion. The picture is printed onto a series of small prisms so that when you move the bottle, in this case, the bird appears to feed the chicks. I remember this sort of picture being given away with chewing gum in the late 50's early 60's. Full and in good condition these generally fetch in the order of US\$25 or £20/25 in antique/junk shops in the

US or UK. This one sold for a very disappointing (for the seller) £4.20, partly I suspect because it was badly described and partly as this is probably the most common one of this type of bottle.

We carry on with what has become an Italian theme with the two Luxado Gondolas. There are at least three versions of the Luxado Gondola. All are getting reasonably old now as the newest one (on the right) is 1974. These two sold for £7.00



Enough of Italy, on to Mexico for the next two bottles. Mexico is increasingly issuing ceramic Tequila bottles and these are two of them. Firstly we have Dona Carlota reposado. This is a hand painted bottle in the shape of an agave 'pina,' which is the core of the agave plant once the pencas are removed. It sold for US\$14.50. Next we have

Tonala anejo. This, like the last bottle, is 50ml, and again is hand painted. It sold for US\$15.50



We go north of the border for our next four bottles. These are all part of the Confederate side from McCormick's Civil War series. They were sold as one lot for US\$24.99. Selling four ceramics in one

lot is not a good idea if you want to get the best price – but I was happy as I bought them!



This set of five circus bottles is rarely seen and even more rarely sold, I presume because Shrine members snap them up before they get on the open market. I had no idea what the Shrine organisation is, other than that they were some sort of service club, so I decided to look them up. The Shrine was founded in 1872 by a group of 13 men belonging to the Masonic Order. It is an international (USA, Canada, Mexico and Panama) fraternity of approximately 500,000 men belonging to 191 Shrine Temples, or chapters. For 80 years, the Shrine has operated a network of specialised hospitals that treat children with orthopaedic problems, burns and spinal cord injuries, up to their 18th birthday, free of charge. They are also well known for sponsoring circuses. Each of these bottles is 5.5 x 2.5 x 3.0 inches and all were issued by McCormick in 1983. There is a sixth, with a lion on it, that was not being sold, and I understand that the set came complete with a circus tent. Four of these sold for US\$49.99 ea. the horse one for US\$66.



The three bottles on the left each contain 60ml of Sotelo Pisco – Peruvian fire water! Nice bottles but nobody wanted them at a minimum bid of US\$29.99

Someone has obviously bust the arms off our next bottle – which might explain why it went so cheaply. Venus

was made by Luxardo and filled with Cherry Ardo, a cherry wine. It sold for US\$6.51

MBC made the Karate fighter with which we start the next page. US\$4.25 was, I am sure, a disappointing result for the seller but obviously a good buy for the purchaser.





The picture on the right is not very good but it is difficult to take good pictures of bottles only 25mm (1") high. This is a remarkable little bottle as most this size are merely dummies but this one contains red wine, or at least a liquid that looks like it. It sold for US\$11.38 after 8 bids.



Below we have a sailing ship decanter with a severe identity crisis. Firstly, the ship is called Carson City – which is in the middle of the Nevada desert and I



always thought that the ship of the desert was a camel. Secondly it says on the back 'Dug's West Indies' and yet has a Cyrus Nobel label. Dug is the Dug of brothels fame, ie. he had his own label, but the ship was made in 1974 and Dug's label followed. Dug's West Indies was Dug's bar in Carson City. It sold for US\$19.27 – the ship mini not the bar!

The five Geishas below are from a set of six by MBC. I have shown the prices fetched under each mini.



US\$15.50



US\$9.00



US\$16.50

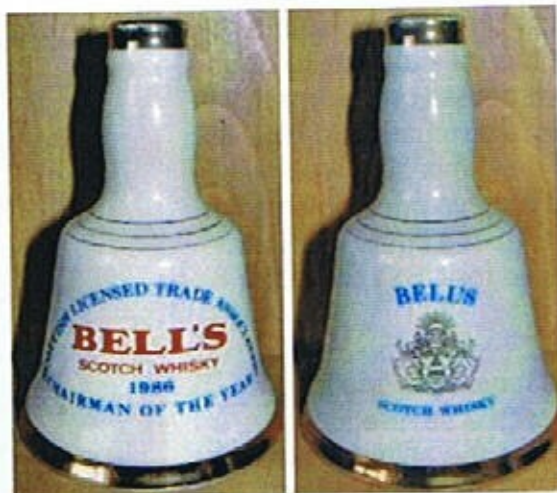


US\$8.50



US\$9.38

We start the next page with some bottles for you whisky/whiskey collectors. First up is the star of the show. The mini Bells bell (front and back views shown) was produced by Wade in 1986 for the Scottish Licensed Trade Association and was presented to the Chairman of the year. It stands 9.5cm (3.75") tall and the base is marked "Wade, Bells Scotch Whisky, Perth, Scotland." This is the only bottle I have ever seen that got 30 bids. It sold for an incredible £118.00, about NZ\$310



Trotter blended Pennsylvania Whiskey is in great condition for a bottle that pre-dates 1913. How do we know the date? The bottle comes from Saml. P Haller of Pittsburg. The spelling of the city's name was changed to Pittsburgh in 1913. It sold for US\$167.50. A good result for an old bottle with such a remarkably good label. Kentucky Pride is newer but still an old bottle in great condition. It has a 1936 Illinois Tax stamp and sold for US\$24.50

The two Old Mr. Boston flasks were sold as one lot. The one on the right, with the plain screw cap, is obviously the older of the two but the photo is not clear enough to read the tax stamp and get an age. The pair sold for a measly US\$1.25!

at time of writing! The buyer comes from Taiwan and has been buying quite a lot of mainly ceramic minis lately.



We started this page with an expensive bottle so we may as well finish the same way. The problem I have with this one is that I cannot think of any sane reason why a Larsen Viking Ship should sell for so much – US\$350.00! Eat y'er heart



out Ken (I bought 5 different ones from him at the AGM for nothing like this amount). This ship is also missing the pennant. There was one set of three issued without pennants but I don't think that this is one of them.

So endeth another **AS SEEN ON EBAY**. Once again I hope you enjoyed reading this as much as I enjoyed compiling it for you. Feedback is always welcome, as are your articles – HINT!

David Smith

COKES

The Cokes shown here are ones that I have acquired recently. The two World of Coca Cola bottles are from Atlanta and Las Vegas. They are very little different from two I picked up in 1999. Next is a commemorative bottle for the 1994 NBA finals. It is hard to come by as undoubtedly many basket ball fans have squirreled these away. Thank goodness for Ebay. The final bottle in the first photo is the gold 1998 Santa bottle. Gold bottles were only made for Christmas 1997 and 1998 and in each case a plain glass bottle was made as well.



The next photo shows a very recent city promotion bottle for Atlanta and, third one along, another one for Las Vegas (Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas Nevada). In between is the American 2004 Athens Olympics bottle (not to be confused with 2004 Athens Olympic Coke bottles made in a number of other

countries). The final bottle in this photo speaks for itself, although quite what it is saying I don't know as 2004 and the frost/snow symbols are all that are on it.



The colourful bottles below are similar to two Brazilian sets shown to you in issue 68. These were made in Mexico in 2004



for the MTV Latin America Music Awards and are very difficult to get hold of. There are two more of these which I am still trying to obtain. These are 76mm (3") plastic bottles with a wrap around

transparent label (a sort of shrink wrap).



The mini Cokes above are from the new 'Destination' series which has replaced the 'Always Destination' series that was discontinued in 1999. So far I only know of 28 of these that have been produced and have been fortunate enough to obtain most of them. Each bottle either has the state name and the outline of the state or a city name and the outline of the state, with the exception of five made for Hawaii that show the island name and island outline.



Above we have six more bottles from Brazil. Again these are plastic with wrap around labels. They were made for Christmas 2004. Next to them is a single bottle showing both sides and the cap. This was made by The Coca Cola Export Corporation, Casablanca and as you can see is in English on one side and Arabic on the other.

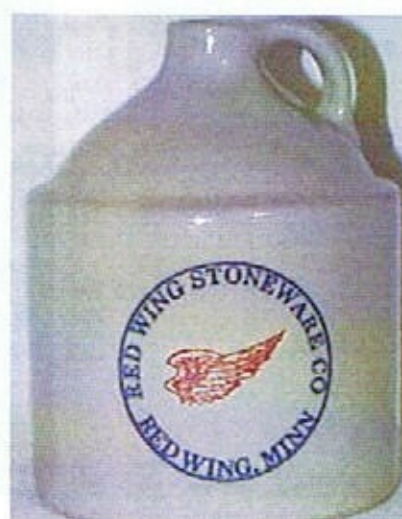
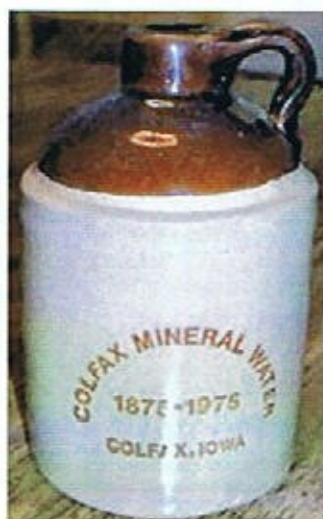
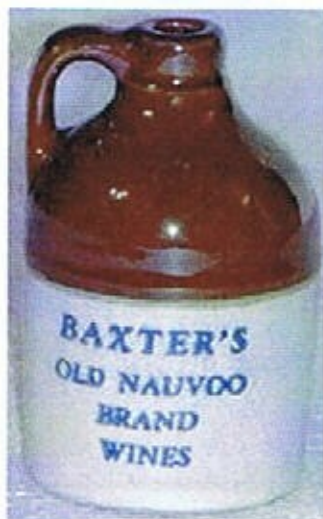
I now have over 700 different mini Cokes, out of just over 800 that I know of, and, with them still being made, this part of the collection can only continue to grow.

David Smith

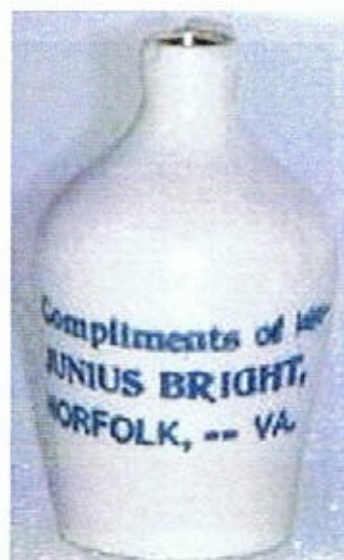
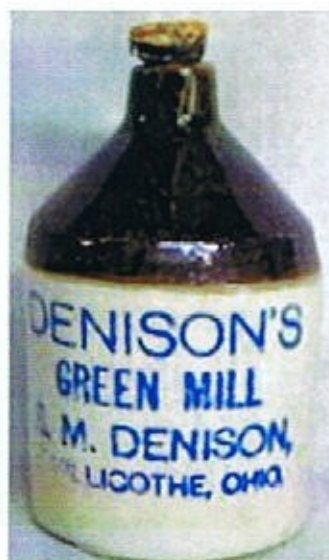
AMERICAN JUGS ON EBAY

Occasionally in the past I have shown you a mini American stoneware jug that was for sale but as there are always dozens I thought it about time I did a specialist article.

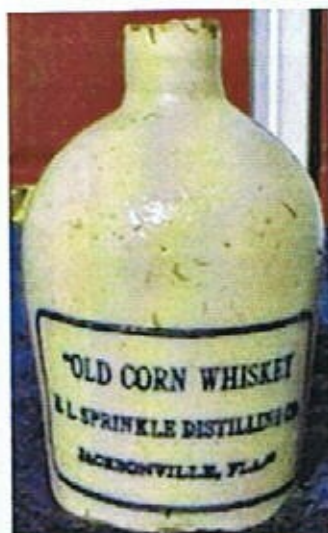
Many of the jugs shown are advertising give-aways and not all will have been filled. All are however very collectable, as can be seen by the prices fetched.



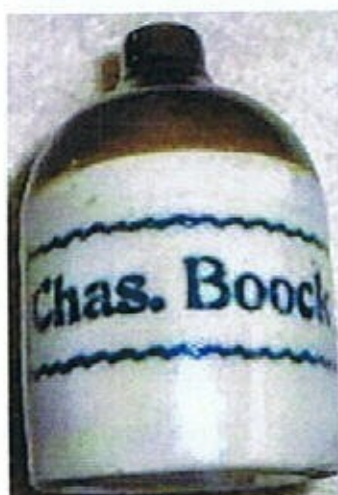
Baxters Old Nauvoo Brand Wines is grey with a brown top. It is 83mm (3.25") high and sold for US\$30.99. The Colfax Mineral Water jug is from a limited edition of 500 made in 1975 for the centenary of Colfax, Iowa. The back of the jug has a drawing of Mason House Park, a hotel that sold this water many years ago. The jug is cream and brown, stands 120mm (4.75") tall and sold for US\$18.50. Jugs by the Red Wing Stoneware Co. from Minnesota are very collectable. This one is all cream with the blue and red Red Wing logo and stands 120mm (4.75") tall. Even though it is modern it sold for US\$15.50.



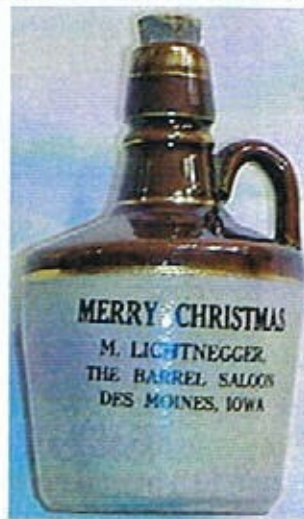
Dennison's Green Mill is cream with a brown top and blue writing. It is 92mm (3.6") high and in good condition apart from a few very small chips. Spirited bidding saw this go to US\$82. The middle jug says Compliments of Junius Bright, Norfolk, Va. I'd bet that never in his wildest dreams did Julius think that this jug would sell many years later for US\$303.88. This jug is white with blue writing and stands 82mm (3.25") high. Finally with this group we have a muddy yellow jug which states Compliments of T.H. Haynes Co., Inc., Bristol, Va-Tenn. It measures 89mm (3.5") tall and, despite having a chip on the lip and a small chip on the base, it sold for US\$174.50



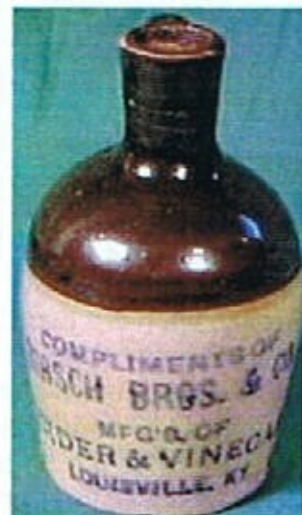
The Aronhime Distilling Company of Roanoke, Virginia was Registered distillery No.275. The jug is cream and brown but the seller did not state the height of this one. With 13 seconds to go bidding was at US\$65.98 but it went for US\$116.50. Which just goes to show that you need to be on the ball if you really want something. Old Corn Whiskey from E. L. Sprinkle of Jacksonville, Florida is cream coloured (as this is an American jug should I be saying Colored?) and stands 82mm (3.25") high. It bid to US\$69.05 but failed to reach it's reserve. Last in this row is an old Red Wing jug. This is cream and brown with blue writing and about 76mm (3") high. It sold for over 17 times what the modern one sold for, US\$268.99



Chas. Boock is white with a brown top, 76mm (3") tall and sold for US\$49.99. Old Continental Whiskey is all white with the writing on an acorn logo. It is 83mm (3.25") high. Unfortunately it only bid to US\$26 and failed to reach the (undisclosed) reserve. The Oakland Wine Company, Richmond, Indiana is another white jug with blue writing. It sold for US\$125.

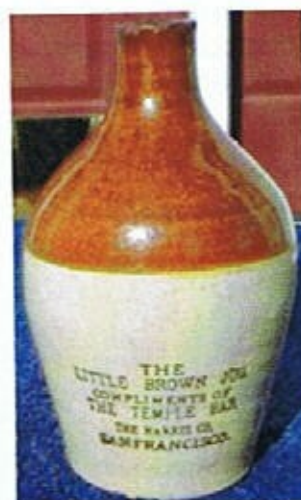
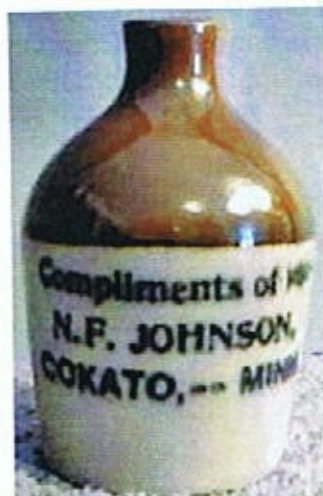


N.M. Urt & Co. Hand Made International Sour Mash Louisville, Ky. is a great little (70mm or 2.75") jug with a wire handle and wooden bail. It is white with black writing and of unknown age. It sold for US\$155.02. Our next jug says Merry Christmas M. Lichtnegger, The Barrel Saloon, Des Moines, Iowa. It is 100mm (4") tall and is two tone grey and brown. M. Lichtnegger lived in the middle 1800's and died in the early 1900's, so this could date from anywhere between 1875 & 1910. It sold for US\$227.50. The last jug in this series is cream and brown and stands 75mm (3.125") high. It states "Compliments of T. E. Griffin - 530 W. Utica St." Mr. Griffin was a grocer around about 1900. It sold for US\$49.99.

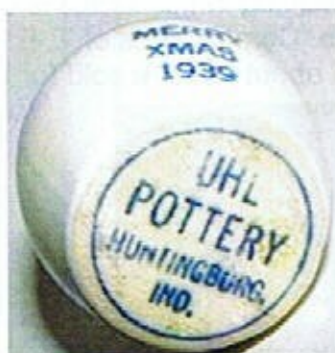
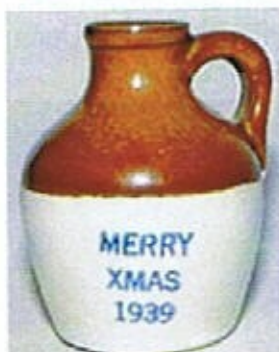


Chas. S. Grove, Liquor Merchants, Boston, Mass is another grey and brown jug. It is 88mm (3.5") tall and does have a handle, it just does not show up in this photo. It sold for US\$31.04. Next we have two Hirsch Bros & Co, Mfg's of Vinegar & Cider, Louisville Ky & Pittsburgh, Pa. The first is 79mm (3.1") tall, the second 86mm (3.4"), both are in two tone brown and both have handles that do

not show up in these photos. The first sold for US\$76.25 and the second US\$83.25.



Ridgeway straight corn whiskey was made by K L Sprinkle Distillers of Jacksonville, Florida. This 76mm (3") jug has a pinkish tinge. It sold for US\$110.49. The next jug is from N F Johnson of Cokato, Minnesota. It is 76mm (3") tall and the usual two tone brown. With 13 bids a number of collectors obviously wanted this. It sold for US\$209.50. Last in line is a two tone 'Little Brown Jug' from The Harris Co. owners of The Temple Bar in San Francisco. The Harris Company operated from 1902 to 1919. Adolph Harris was a cigar manufacturer prior to entering the wholesale liquor business. It sold for US\$180.51



Finally, we have two Christmas jugs from Uhl pottery of Huntingburg, Indiana (both shown twice). The first is a standard two tone brown but the second gets into the Christmas spirit with a brown top and green body. Uhl is a highly regarded US pottery and their older jugs always fetch good money. These are no exceptions as the 1939 one went for US\$212.50 and the 1940 one for US\$278.83, both after spirited bidding.

I hope you have enjoyed this look at a part of mini collecting that we do not usually feature.

David Smith

ALLIED DOMECQ

The reason this issue of miNiZ is a little later than it was going to be is that I have been in Europe co-ordinating a valuation of the plant & equipment of part of liquor group Allied Domecq. This group has been taken over and broken up by Pernod Ricard of France and Fortune Brands of the US. Fortune Brands will not be a familiar name to most of you but they own Jim Beam and DeKuyper – very familiar names indeed to mini collectors.

Allied owned a string of familiar brands and our client, Fortune Brands, was buying some of them including Courvoisier (Cognac), DYC (Spanish Whisky), Larios (Gin), Cockburns (Port), Makers Mark (Bourbon), Laphroig (Scotch), Harvey's (Sherry), Malibu (Liqueur), Sausa (Tequila) and Canadian Club (Whiskey). The job of DTZ (the company I now work for) was to value the land, buildings and plant & equipment for the European assets. Others were valuing barrels, vehicles, stock and the brand names.

Unfortunately, as co-ordinator for the plant valuation, I spent most of my time in London and did not get to France, Spain or Portugal, where I would have liked to have gone. I did get to value the Kuemmerling factory in Germany. This is a remarkable facility with four modern bottling lines, three of them set up especially to bottle the 20ml Kuemmerling Bitters miniatures – up to 1.2 million a day would you believe!



Kuemmerling currently make two products only, a 'standard' bitters and an orange bitters. Bitters are a very German drink and are based on schnapps. The vast majority of this is drunk from miniature bottles as a digestive, although they were also bottling in 500 and 700ml sizes.



After I left there I realised that I had neither tasted the product nor got myself a miniature as a souvenir – an opportunity lost!

David Smith



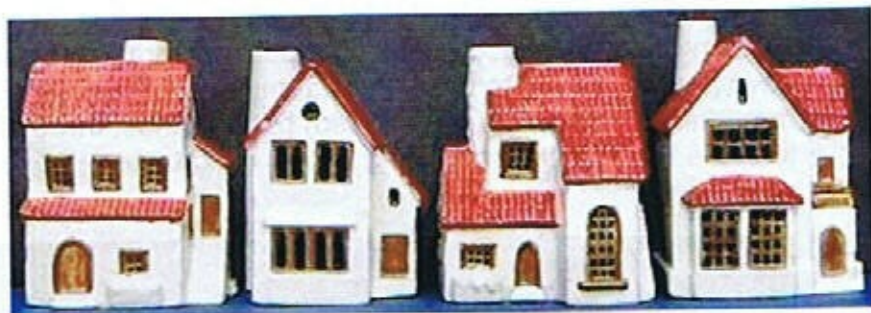
KLM 86

I thought that you might like to see the latest house from KLM. I can't tell you much about it except that it is in Amsterdam and was built in 1575.

I was pleased to complete my collection of all three sets (45 Rynbende, 45 Henkes and 85 Bols) about three months ago but, as a new one is now coming out in September/October each year, the collection will never quite be complete.

Elsewhere in this issue is an article on bottles from Peru. There are some great bottles coming from there now and, hot off the press, here are

some new house bottles. There are currently 9 but there will eventually be 20 plus a number of churches and palaces – something for the ceramic collectors to look forward to.



David Smith

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| October 16 th | SI | 2.00pm | Robin Mellish's, 66 Rudds Road, Christchurch |
| October 16 th | Beach | 12.30pm | Pot Luck Lunch, Ian Butcher's, 5 Sunburst Court, Paraparaumu |
| January 15 th | | 12.30pm | Barbecue, David Smith's, 11 Trevor Terrace, Parcmata |
| February 24/26 th | | | AGM and Weekend Away in Christchurch |