

Issue 76

Spring 2006



miNiZ

THE NEWSLETTER OF PORT NICHOLSON MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



Australasia's only Miniature Bottle Club

Cover, New New Zealand, Editorial & AGM



We have found very few new New Zealand minis this time.

The cover shows a set of three new bottles made by Deinlein for Skytower. Erica has found out that these are the only three flavours made. Note the Paua Shell edge to the labels. My thanks to Ken Chin for getting these for me.

Ken also found the new Mamaku Blue bottles below. These are variations from what Mamaku Blue have made before but I'm sure you will agree, a great addition to a collection.

On the left we have a new (plastic) NZ mini from Coruba which was found by Erica Mulder.

Be aware that if you are posting a parcel out of NZ with a value of \$1000 or more you need an export license. Pam found this out with one of the parcels from her auction. There is a heap of form filling and a \$40 fee.

A New Zealand collector is selling her collection on line – legally. Kelly has obtained a special license to sell minis by mail order. The site is at

www.mad-on-miniatures.zoomshare.com She has also offered to sell 'on behalf' for a small fee. You need to send a photo of each bottle, a description and the asking price.



Unfortunately the club continues to shrink – as do many others. Two of the US clubs have closed their doors this year. We have a very small but keen Wellington 'hard core,' a few active members outside Wellington and then the (shrinking) rest. Do you know any other collectors who would benefit from club membership? Remember this includes four 20 page miNiZ each year, in full colour. We are the only club with a full colour newsletter. Fees are very reasonable, NZ\$16 in NZ, A\$20 in Australia, US\$18 for North America and £12/Euro18 or equivalent from the rest of the world.

There are only six of us taking advantage of the offer from Bemrose to buy their bottles at wholesale price – somewhat of a disappointment.

The next miNiZ will be published in January so I will take this opportunity to wish all members a very merry Christmas.

The next meeting is a barbecue at David & Rosie's, 11 Trevor Terrace, Paremata, Wellington on Sunday 14th January at 12.30pm. BYO everything.

The AGM and Weekend away is in Wellington again next February. The last two years, since we started this new format, have been a great success so there is no reason to think that 2007 will not be equally successful. I am looking forward to meeting up again with those Christchurch members who said that they would come to Wellington at the last AGM (hint!).

If you need a bed please contact President, Colin Ryder, on 04 478 4391 or rydercj@xtra.co.nz

Last year our Christchurch members took us to see a great collection of Jim Beam bottles. Unfortunately there is nothing like that in Wellington and now not even any decent place to take you to buy minis, so you will have to manage with looking at mini collections (what a shame!).

The programme is as follows:

- Fri. 16th** **Get together & Collection Viewing** at David & Rosie's, 11 Trevor Terrace, Paremata. David has a great collection of Microminis, NZ bottles, Jim Beam personalised bottles and ceramics. David is also happy to give any member who wants it training on how to buy on Ebay and find mini bottle web sites. Come anytime after lunch. There is an **Evening Barbecue**, BYO everything.
- Sat. 17th** **Collection Viewing.** Ian Butcher's, 5 Sunburst Court, Paraparaumu
Ian has a great selection of ceramics and bourbons.
Collection Viewing, Gary Carvey's, 9 Manley Gardens, Ppm. Beach
One of the best Scotch collections in New Zealand.
Antique Shop, The Chimney Pot, 80 Ratanui Road, Otaihangā
Guaranteed to have minis for sale.
Lunch, Lindale, SH1, Paraparaumu
Collection Viewing & Afternoon Tea. Ken & Malee Chin's, 29 Norton Park Avenue, Fairfield, Lower Hutt
One of the best Scotch collections in New Zealand and much more.
Evening Meal, 7.30 @ Mungavin Blues, Mungavin Avenue, Porirua.
The food and atmosphere are good and the meals very reasonably priced.
- Sun 18th** Colin & Di Ryder's, 20 Prospect Terrace, Johnsonville
11.00am **Swapmeet**
12.30pm **Barbecue** (BYO everything)
2.30pm **AGM**

IT'S NEARLY CHRISTMAS

On the AGM weekend in Christchurch earlier this year I photographed a few Christmas bottles belonging to David & Val Fretwell. They are the first three photos.



The three snowmen are not typical of a New Zealand Christmas (unless you are on Mt. Cook), but snowmen seem to be a universal Christmas symbol. They were made by Chisai Bin in the 1990's (I assume). I know a number of collectors who would kill for these. As you did not let us know down here that these were for sale, watch your back if you come to NZ again David!



The Santa, or possibly Mother Christmas on the right is in a painted glass bottle and comes from Germany. Clearly it is quite old. Probably in between in age are the Mr & Mrs Christmas from R S Ltd. I know nothing more about these but I certainly would like them!

Ski Country made a number of well known Christmas bottles, including the popular Woodland Trio shown below.

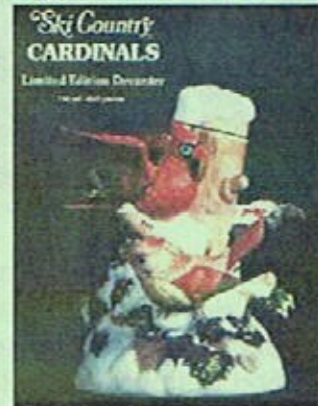


The next three Ski Country Christmas bottles are Mrs. Cratchit (on a music box), Bob Cratchit with Tiny Tim and Ebenezer Scrooge, all Dickens characters from "A Christmas Carol." Mrs Cratchit was a Christmas present from Rosie to me last

Christmas. I'm hoping for a Nude Cheerleader this year – I already have the bottle!



The Chickadees (1981) and The Cedar Waxwings (1985) (photo on the left) are two of three bird bottles made by Ski Country for Christmas. The third was The Cardinals from 1991. Again the photo is the best I could find. All feature snow and holly and so legitimately count as Christmas bottles.



Frosty the Snowman & Here Comes Santa (both 1980) are from Grenadier and both contain California Sherry - just the thing for Christmas.



The Santa on the right is from Todisco of Italy. I believe that it was made in the 1970's. It is part of the series 'stock' Italian ceramics that includes a sailor, footballer, fisherman etc.

Coca Cola is well known for its depiction of Santa Claus. For many years a new Santa variation has appeared on their (full size) Christmas bottles. Miniatures were made each year from 1993 to 2002 on standard minis and in 1997 & 1998 on gold coloured minis. In the late 1990's Coke issued a set of 5 minis with the Santas from 1957 to 1961. These are in a slightly fatter bottle, which reflects the shape of Coke bottles in the 1950's. All came with the ribbon and all except 1993 have the date on the side.



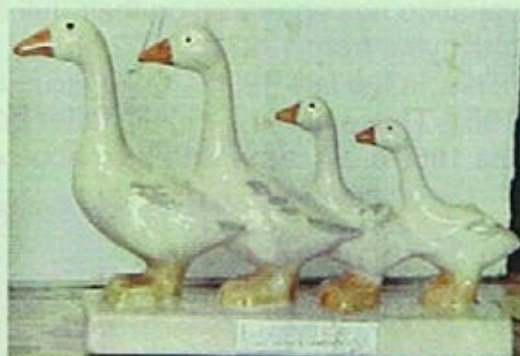


The next two Santas are Schafer & Vater give-aways. The same give-aways are often made in more than one colour (brown, blue or multi) but these two seem to have only been made in blue. The first of them has at least two variations, one without any writing.

I thought that I couldn't do an article on Christmas without reference to why we have it (apart from it being a pagan mid-winter festival that is), so I tried to find a few bottles with a Christmas religious theme. I could not find any depicting shepherds, a manger, a baby etc. I could have cheated by showing some Ski Country sheep, a Rutherford Bull and one of the Baby give-aways but thought better of it.



No Christmas these days would be complete without a Turkey. The Wild Turkey at the left is trying to get away, probably to avoid ending up like the German give-away shown below him. Ebenezer (first page) is holding a goose as goose, not Turkey, is the traditional English fare at Christmas. Many people there still eat goose. The four below are The White Goose Family and were made by a firm called McMannon – I wish I knew more as it is a very unusual mini.



I'm sure that there are lots more Christmas minis. If you know of any please don't bother telling me – write an article and send it to me for next Christmas.

David Smith

MR LUCKY RETIRED

Three favourites of the Hoffman Original Mr. Lucky Mini Decanter collector's are the three decanters shown below. While all the previous Mr. Lucky Retired mini decanters were completely made in porcelain, these three decanters had porcelain figurines sitting on real wooden rocking chairs.

Since there were 5000 of each of these miniature decanters made they are somewhat common and if you look hard and long enough, you should be able to find them.



The first decanter is Mrs. Lucky Retired. She was introduced in 1981, and shows an older Mrs. Lucky rocking in her chair. She is holding a coffee cup and has her friend, the chipmunk, sleeping in her lap.

The next mini decanter, also done in 1981, is the Mr. Lucky Retired bottle. This decanter shows a more aged Mr. Lucky smoking his pipe and enjoying his rocking chair. Like Mrs. Lucky Retired, a chipmunk is also fast asleep in his lap.

The last bottle is the Mr. Policeman Retired mini decanter. This mini was introduced in 1986. It shows a retired policeman in his rocking chair, smoking his pipe, with a child holding a police car on his lap. This decanter is a favourite with the Cincinnati Police Department's FOP organization. They bought a lot of these so the Mr. Policeman Retired may be more difficult to find

Only 1 more Mr. Lucky mini decanter left. Do you know what it is?

Jim Crawford

AS SEEN ON EBAY #14

We start this time with a lesser known Drioli and a Cazanove piece that I have never seen before. The Drioli Warrior sold for US\$11.09 and the Cazanove Bird, after spirited bidding, sold for US\$20.11



The next two bottles were both made in 1973 in Italy by R.E.M. Originals especially for Famous Firsts. The left hand photo shows a 1912 National car and the right hand photo a Marmon Wasp car. As you can see, both were sold complete with their original packaging. Both pieces measure about 200x75x75mm (8x3x3 inches). The National failed to sell and the Wasp sold for US\$21.50



Sticking with a transportation theme, but from a few decades earlier, we have the Conestoga Wagon from Mount Hope. Unfortunately this failed to sell, even with a very low initial asking price of US\$4.99.

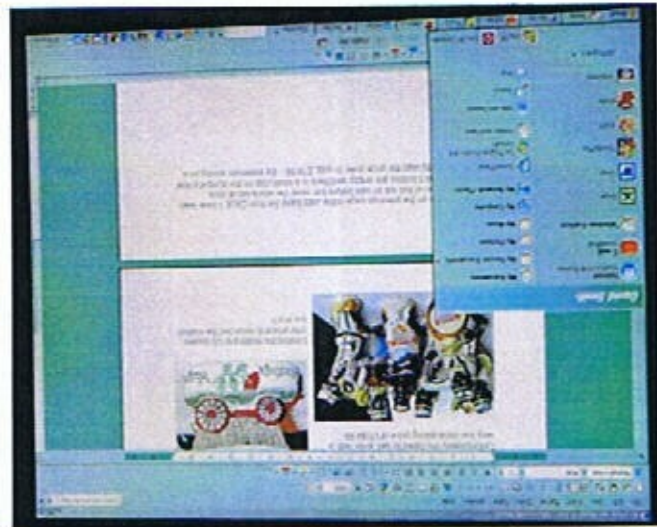


Limiting the bidding to US buyers only probably restricted the market too much.

The last picture on the previous page is the Jazz band Set from Drioli. I have seen individual pieces of this set on sale before but never the whole set at once. Unfortunately all 6 bottles are empty and there is a small chip on the trumpet player. This undoubtedly kept the price down but they still sold for £58.89 – a lot more than I would have expected under the circumstances.

At this point I was trying to find the keyboard shortcut to a £ sign as the one in the last sentence was clipped from another document. This was the result..... Try it yourself (ctrl)(alt) (2 - with caps lock off) but don't blame me if you cannot figure out how to get it right again!

It's about time I looked after you straight bottle collectors again. We will start with some beer bottles.



Our first bottle, 1 Way, dates from the early introduction of non-returnable bottles and states "The bottle that you don't take back." It is about 76mm (3") tall and sold on one bid for US\$4.99. A second identical bottle failed to sell. The Pabst Blue Ribbon is 114mm (4.5") tall and states "Souvenir Special" and "Bottled at the Brewery" – where else? It sold for US\$8.50. The Balantines got more interest than the last two, 6 bids in fact. It is 108mm (4.25") tall and obviously old. It sold for US\$11.16.

The Black River Ale and Congress are from the same brewery, Haberle Congress Brewing Co., Syracuse, N.Y.

They are about 76mm (3") tall and both have salt and pepper tops. It took 10 bids to secure the pair at US\$32.09



One of my favourite spirits is Crown Royal. The bottle on the left was a special 50ml mini made for Christmas 2005 and made to look like a Christmas tree ornament. You can put ornaments like that on my Christmas tree at any time! It sold for a minimum bid of US\$4.99

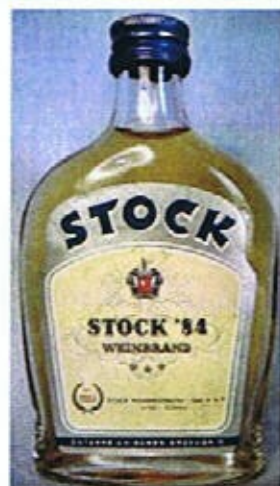




We might as well stick with whisky for a few bottles. We start with two boxed Scotch minis from Glenturret. The 1967 sold for £21.02 and the 5000 day old sold for £14.60. Next we have Fort



George Deluxe Blend Scotch Whisky "Distilled for Historic Scotland." This sold for £6.80. The Glendullan 12 year old single malt sold for £6.00 after only 3 bids. The Taliker flask on the right fetched US\$12.80 after several bids. The last of our Scotches is a



Tobermory especially bottled for Marks & Spencer. I was disappointed to see this sold, with only one bid, for only US\$3.99 as it would certainly have cost more than this new from the store.

The very unusual 76mm (3") tall, 5 pointed star shaped bottle, above right, is a VSOP Brandy from Suntory of Japan. It sold for US\$12. The Buton Brandy, above centre, is one most New Zealanders would have in their collection,

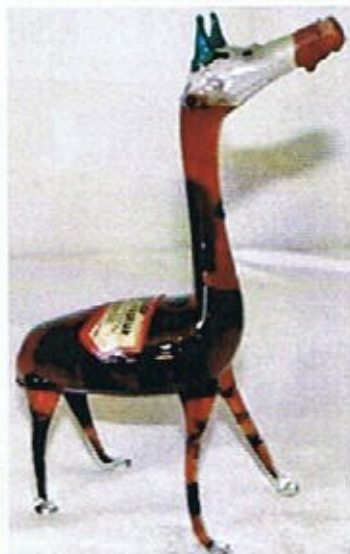
however it is obviously not as common overseas as this sold, after 7 bids, for US\$15.50. It is 82mm (3.25") tall by the way. To the left we have a Stock Brandy flask, this time filled with 1984 vintage Austrian Brandy. After spirited bidding (no pun intended) this sold for US\$41.00. Next to the Stock we have Alize VS Cognac from L & L of France. It also has an importers name on the label but I cannot read it. Sale price was US\$5.95. Our final brandy is one which I must confess I would not have given a second glance. The raffia wrapped Cherry Brandy is Italian. It stands 127mm (5") tall and was made by Bisso of Livorno. The metal seal reads 'Repubblica Italiana.' Clearly some collectors knew the worth of this as it sold for £51.00





J B Korsakoff Wodka Botika Kopkakob is probably from Russian. The bottle is 140mm (5.5") tall. It sold for US\$7.49.

On the right we have a real gem. This 165mm (6.5") tall Giraffe was hand blown by Pete Hagen for Popper-Morson Corp. of Jersey City. It contains Cherry Liqueur. Clearly it is old and clearly it was well sort after. It sold for US\$179.01



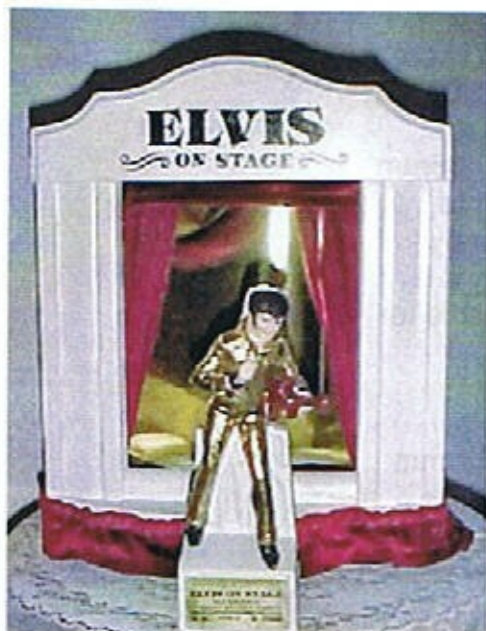
Our next piece failed to sell, even at a low opening price of £2.00. This shoe is 114 mm (4.5") long as is from Germany. It contains Kirsch.



I thought that I had finished showing you beers but I found these three rare ones – Apache, Hochgreve and Topper. They sold for US\$142.50, US\$105.25 and US\$213.61 respectively. Nothing more need be said!



This boxed set of six liqueurs is from the Caribbean island of St. Martin. They sold for a minimum bid of US\$14.99. The three rude bottles are probably German, all are 20ml and all contain Vodka with Figs. They sold, after 10 bids, for US\$31.01



A few issues ago I did an article on the Elvis bottles. I thought that you might like to see this 22ct gold one which was sold, for US\$360, complete with the stage that it was originally sold with. The chap on the right was obviously watching Elvis. He is a German made give-away. He sold for US\$50.50. The next bottle is also a give-away and also German. Was she the waitress? She sold for US\$51.10. I doubt that Elvis turned up in the Beetle, but maybe the waitress or the drinker did. Unlike most Beetles, that were made in Germany or Brazil, this one

comes from Italy. It sold for US\$17.49



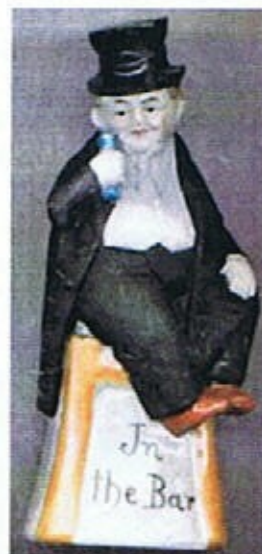
The Crocodile is one of the few Forcol minis that I do not have. I bookmarked it but then forgot to bid on it. Not that I

would have got it as it sold for US\$54 – I suspect a record for a Forcol mini.

The A-Frame building on the left is from J. Faria & Filhos of Spain and contains Madeira. It is in the shape of a typical house on the island of Madeira. The boot bottle on the right

is from the same company and again contains Madiera. Neither sold for minimum bids of US\$14.99 (house) & US\$9.99 (boot).

Also on the right is the Red Tailed Hawk from Ski Country. This is a Ski Country mini that is rarely shown for sale. It sold for US\$14.53





I was about to bid on the suitcase (left) when I saw that another one of our members was already doing so. It sold for £1.00 – a bargain, eh val?

XQ Tequila is one of a number of excellent ceramic tequila bottles currently

coming out of Mexico. It contains 50ml of Gran Reserva Anejo Tequila. Amazingly it failed to sell.



The lady on the right is from Bols and depicts a Dutch lady in the traditional costume of Zeeland. It is part of a set of 8. There are large and small versions of these bottles (both minis) and some significant painting variations. This is one of the large ones. She sold for A\$69.88



Harland Johnson gave me the information to bring you the next two bottles. Glenugie 1966 just looks like another Connoisseurs Choice Scotch to me but it is a bottle that Harland has been trying to buy for a number of years – but not at £40.03!

Harland went on to give me a link to an even more expensive bottle. I will let him explain: "But for total auction insanity, a German whisky auction house, <http://whiskyauction.com/> is the place to go. I peck around the edges of the auctions looking for bargains, which is very hard to do because the European whisky collectors, particularly the Germans, seem

to have way more money than brains, or else there are a few collectors that can't stand seeing the other one win." He went on to describe how to get to a particular auction result, Auction XM239 in April 2006. There you find Killyloch 1972, 21 year old by James MacArthur & Co. Ltd. You will also find that it sold for 723 Euros – about NZ\$1500!!!!!! My apologies for the small photo – it just shows that size isn't everything!

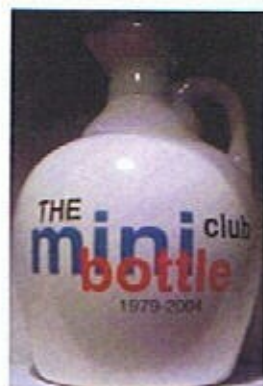


The man in the bath is from Lionstone's Old West series. It is one of the hardest of the set to get. This one sold for a poor US\$4.95

Holt's Olde Exmoor Punch is a jug that I haven't seen before. As you can see it has a paper label with a pre-hunt scene. It sold for a miserable US\$4.99



We start the this page with two gems from Portugal. The man and woman each contain 50ml of passion fruit liqueur from the Azores (islands in the Atlantic that are part of Portugal.) They sold for US\$9.49 and US\$11.03 – to me.



The Mini Bottle Club (the national UK club) 25th anniversary jug is #67 of only 100 made and individually numbered. It contains 5cl of Scotch. I would have expected this to sell well but it failed to get a minimum bid of US\$16.99. This may be a high starting bid for a jug but, taking into account the rarity, it is cheap.



Daisy is missing her labels so we don't know who made her. A pity as it is a most unusual and interesting bottle.

Bidding was restricted to the USA so she only fetched US\$5.50

Big Wyoming from Ski Country is a familiar bottle to most of us – or is it? I will let the seller tell the story.



"Look closely at close-up of "America". The "i" is missing! The manufacturer misspelled America in this initial run of bottles. There are only eight in existence (to the best of my knowledge). Here's the story . . . Once the Wyoming State Liquor Division realized the error, they sent the entire shipment to the local landfill. Enter my father-in-law. He was a heavy equipment operator at the dump and was in charge of disposing of them by running his Caterpillar over them and burying them. But, before doing so, he grabbed a "handful" to take home. This all happened in 1979 and they have been stored in a "fruit room" in my in-laws basement ever since. He gave them to my wife and I and we are now putting six up for public auction." They fetched a disappointing US\$21.30, US\$20.65, US\$20.52, US\$18.69, US\$18.53 & US\$12.65



David Smith

A FEW MORE DOGS

It took me a long time to put the 'Dogs' article in the last miNiZ together and I thought that I had done a pretty comprehensive job. Not so. Here are a few I missed.



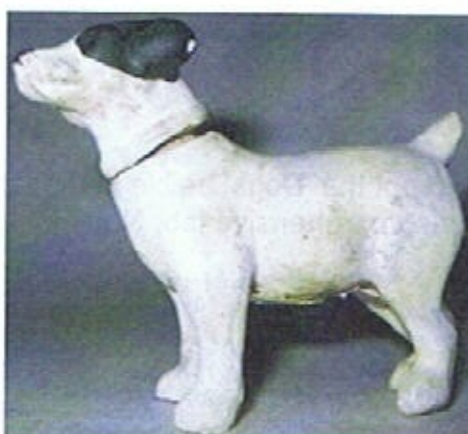
I certainly should not have missed the brown dog from Cazanove of France, or the Scotty from Clan Tartan of Scotland (also issued under the McLech label) – I had just bought both from Pam! The pictures were sent to me by Erica Mulder, as were the next seven.

I also completely forgot about three other dogs in my collection, the blown glass sausage dog from Baitz of Australia, the old man with his dog from Lionstone of the USA and the dog with the hunter from Drioli.



The dog lying down is from Delatour. I presume that this is from France, although the De La Tour family is widely scattered throughout the globe so it could be from somewhere else. I showed you a small painted glass dog from Garnier in the previous article and now we have two more in the same basic bottle. The first is from RDO. de Mallorca of (I think) Spain and the second from Long John of Scotland. Note how the painting and caps make the three look so different. The final bottle from Erica is Father's Gift from Grenadier of the USA – shown on next page.





The dog on the left was sold on Ebay. Unfortunately it was unlabelled but it did have a stamp stuck on the belly and that was issued in 1922. It may be German. It sold for US\$9.99



The three bottles above are all give-aways. I had completely forgotten about give-away bottles when I wrote the original article. There are lots more give-aways with dogs on them but these all sold recently on Ebay for US\$10.49, US\$15.00 & US\$15.00 respectively.

The strange looking dog on the far left is from Certosa of Italy. It is part of a set that also contains a cat, a rabbit and maybe more. It sold on Ebay for US\$26.52. The bottle on the near left is a Schafer & Vater give-away.

If you find any more dog bottles PLEASE don't send them to me as two articles are enough!

David Smith

RECENT VODKAS



Recently a good many new and quite interesting vodkas have been issued or released in the United States. With the exception of the first group we look at, I am not interested in showing you every variation of grape, berry, etc. infused vodka which is currently available in both glass and plastic. All the bottles shown here are glass and 50ml.

Let's begin with those made in the U.S. The above mentioned set is a trio of LIQUID ICE Vodkas. I've shown them in their red, white and blue incarnations. They are raspberry, original vodka, and berry. These are

exact replicas of the larger bottles and all are manufactured to simulate ice cubes, hence the covering which fits over the screw top, making a very clever packaging. They are from LIPS Import Company of Rigby, Idaho. In this case the "LI" of LIPS obviously is Liquid Ice. The infused vodkas are 35% or 70 proof while the original is 40% or 80 proof.



The other U.S. produced bottle is the new OCEAN from the Hawaii Sea Spirits Company of Maui, Hawaii. This is an outstanding bottle and I'm told the vodka itself is also excellent. It went on sale in both 750ml and 50ml this July in Maui. The packaging is excellent and quite reminiscent of many high quality Japanese bottles. I would not all be surprised if this bottle design is nominated for both packaging and advertising awards. It is the usual 80 proof and should you wish more information, go to www.oceanvodka.com.



Let's move to a group of three all from different countries. The ARMADALE is imported by William Grant Co. and if that makes you think of scotch bottles...well, this is a vodka from Scotland. The clever little plaid swatch on the label should have been a good hint. Another very clean well-designed bottle. Next we come to MONOPOLOWA from Austria. There have been many variations of Monopolowa over the years, but this one is the best so far. It's a see through label or what I call a window-pane-label with a picture on the back. The last of this group of three is REYKA from Iceland. Again a replica of the larger bottle, this nice embossed bottle shows a geyser on the closure and not on the main label which is quite plain. This is glacier water with a "lava rock filtration" in the vodka. The company also markets Reyka water.



Now we come to five imported bottles all from France. In the pair we have CIROC which is "distilled from fine French grapes" and NUAGE. The CIROC is a replica bottle and the vodka has been five times distilled. It is from Diageo which is definitely a name to be reckoned with in the liquor industry. The word behemoth comes to mind. Nuage is a silk screened picture bottle in an actual shotglass...all the better to do your shooter! No time wasted with this mini...that is, of course, if you actually drink one.

The last three are all extremely well done and all use what

would appear to be the same bottle. X-RATED began as a vodka/fruit juice drink and then a straight vodka was added. IDOL came next and this one is distilled seven times and filtered five times. Possibly that's why it's the most expensive of all the bottles shown. It is a partial see through label as you can ponder the bunch of grapes on the back of the bottle. Finally we come to PEUREUX PERFECT 1864. As with the other two bottles, this is also frosted glass and this time with a little see through area with a fleur-de-lys. It is a product of Grandes Distilleries Peureux, founded in (of all years) 1864.



Possibly next time a look at some new vodkas from Russia, Hungary, Ukraine, and other eastern nations. There are some great ones and we'll be sure to picture the marvellous SNOW QUEEN and BIRCHES.

David Spaid

ODD SPOT

Q I have heard that it is possible to live on Guinness and milk alone. Is this true, or even partially true?

A This is not quite true. Guinness does contain many vitamins and minerals in small quantities, but is lacking vitamin C, as well as calcium and fat. So, to fulfil all of your daily nutritional requirements you would need to drink a glass of orange juice, two glasses of milk, and 47 pints of Guinness.

A One factor missing would be dietary fibre. There is plenty of evidence that a diet rich in fats (which milk is) and low in fibre can result in health problems, such as colorectal cancer.

DUTCH FARM HOUSES

Rynbende has been one of the most prolific makers of 'fancy' bottles over the years. For many years they made blown glass animals and the Delft Canal Houses for KLM. They also made a whole host of other Delft pieces, including the set of six Dutch Farm Houses from the 1960's shown here. Each contains 50ml of Apricot Brandy. These bottles were imported into New Zealand but are less common in most overseas markets – as the prices a recent set sold on Ebay shows. Numbers 1 & 6 were empty and the others full and sealed. The prices they sold for are on each photo.



David Smith

HAVE YOU SEEN THESE PEOPLE?

When the American troops went into Iraq each of them was issued a pack of cards. There were pictures of the 54 (including two jokers) Iraqi officials on the 'most wanted' list. The set of six book bottles shown here reproduce the cards on each side. I apologise for the sixth picture. I managed to buy the other five but that one eluded me.

Shown are Saddam (Ace of Spades), Qusay, Saddam's son (Ace of Clubs), Uday, Saddam's son (Ace of Hearts), Huda Salih Mahdi Ammash, head of Iraq's nuclear programme (5 of Hearts), Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister (8 of Spades) and Taba Yanin Ramadan, Vice President (10 of Diamonds).

You may recognise the shape of these books as they are identical to the Limoge ceramic books made by Camus. These books were made in China, and no there are not 54 different ones, the full set is shown. They contain Chinese wine.



David Smith