

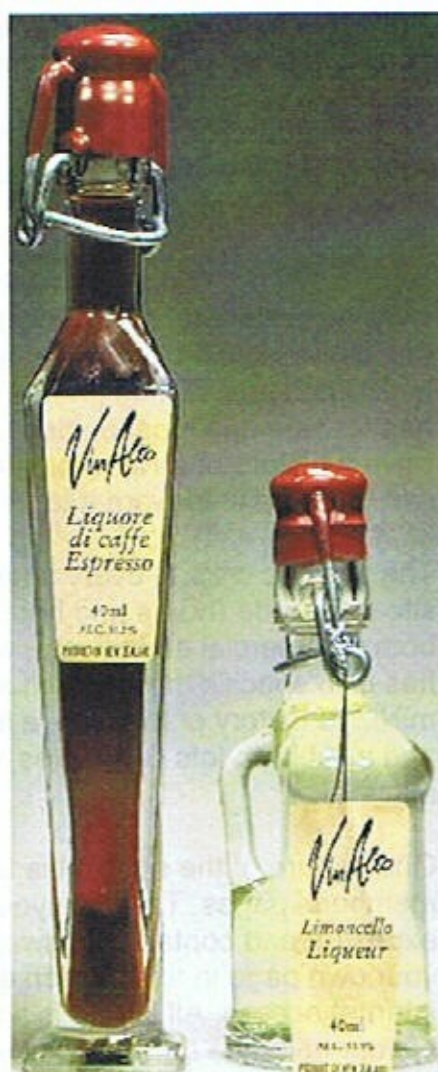
Issue 77

Summer 2007



miNiZ

THE NEWSLETTER OF PORT NICHOLSON MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



Australasia's only Miniature Bottle Club - www.minisnz.com

COVER, NNZ & NEW MEMBERS



We have some great new bottles from Deindein to show you in this edition but we have not used them on the cover as we had Deindein bottles on the last miNiZ cover. The cover shows two new bottles from Vin Alto. Both these are 40ml but the Liquore di Caffè Espresso is as tall as the 100ml Deindein bottles. The smaller Limocello bottle has a tie-on label.

Erica & Ken have found all these new New Zealand bottles for me. To the left we have two great personalised bottles by Deindein, Old Shanty Town & Gold Fields. These are two



attractions on the West Coast. Both bottles are 100ml, 26% and both contain gold flakes. Below them we have two more gold flake Deindein bottles. These were both limited editions (50 each) made for Black Horse Brewery, Weatherstons, Lawrence, Central Otago. Also shown is a new Kiwiberry Liqueur, 100ml, 26%.

At the bottom of the page we have Apple Brandy, Apricot Brandy and Pear Brandy, also from Deindein. All these are 100ml, 42%.

If you have not had a look at the club web site yet, www.minisnz.com, please do so. Those that looked at the site when it first went live also need to have another look. The site now has photos of all the bottles the club has for sale and most bottles ever made in NZ. If you have a picture of a NZ mini that does not have a photo can you please forward it to us.



The site has links to every other known miniature bottle site worldwide (hours and hours of browsing!) and sites, both commercial and private, with bottles for sale. It also has club specific things, such as a complete index of miNiZ, a history of the club, a list of upcoming meetings and a list, with lots of pictures, of all known New Zealand minis.

One feature of the site that is far from complete is the members' pages. They are your chance to get some exposure and contacts for swapping etc. You can have your own page in this section even if you do not have internet access. All I need is a photo of yourself, a photo of your favourite bottle or bottles and a few paragraphs

about yourself and your collection – I will do the rest (see <http://www.minisnz.com/davidsmith.html> for an example). I would prefer that I got these in electronic format but if you do not have a computer I am happy to type the information in.



Member Tony Inzerillo has sent us a couple of pictures of two unusual Christmas presents that he was given in 2005. These were made by Carol, his wife.



It is especially pleasing to welcome these two new members. Jaikumar Bhandari, as he is our first member from India and Ron Gabbard, as he is the first member gained directly through the club's new web site. Jaikumar also sent us a picture of part of his collection.



Jaikumar Bhandari, A-3 Abhimanshree Society, Pashan Road, PUNE 411008, INDIA. E-Mail: jsr@bubhandari.com
Ron Gabbard, 5412 South K Street, Tacoma, WA. 98408, USA.
Phone: (253) 473 7313 E-Mail: gabspsa@msn.com

MR LUCKY & ROCKWELL

As you can see, the last of the Hoffman's Mr. Lucky leprechaun minis is *Mr. Lucky & Norman Rockwell*. I think this is the best decanter that Hoffman ever made, and this is definitely my favorite. It was issued in 1980 and was only done in one size. Although it stands 9 inches tall, & 6 inches at the base, the actual bottle (Mr. Lucky) is only 5 ½ inches, so this is classified as a mini decanter.



The porcelain Mr. Lucky & Rockwell decanter was made in Taiwan & shipped to the Hoffman Collectors Club in the USA. Unfortunately about 20% of the decanters were broken in shipment so, of the original 230 decanters produced, only about 180 to 185 bottles were ever issued to collectors. If you have one, consider yourself very lucky. This is really a rare mini decanter! (one failed to sell last year on Ebay for a minimum bid of US\$175 - editor)

Here's the real story behind the design of the bottle. The designer, Bill Ukraine, had 2 original Norman Rockwell paintings hanging in his home, & one of them depicted Rockwell painting an animal standing by his easel. One night Bill happened to look at the picture and came up with the idea to replace the animal with Mr. Lucky, and the *Mr. Lucky & Norman Rockwell* decanter was born.

Trying to find one of these decanters is very difficult. It seems that those who have them don't want to let them go. Finding one that has not been broken or chipped is next to impossible. Due to the extremely fragile design, the most common break or chip points are the paintbrush, paint palette, Rockwell's arm, and the water pitcher by the chair. Fortunately the one pictured is perfect!

Hope you enjoyed reading all the articles in this Hoffman series as much as I did putting it together. Thanks again to Ed Wertheimer for putting up with my questions and providing me with so much valuable information about all the bottles.

Jim Crawford

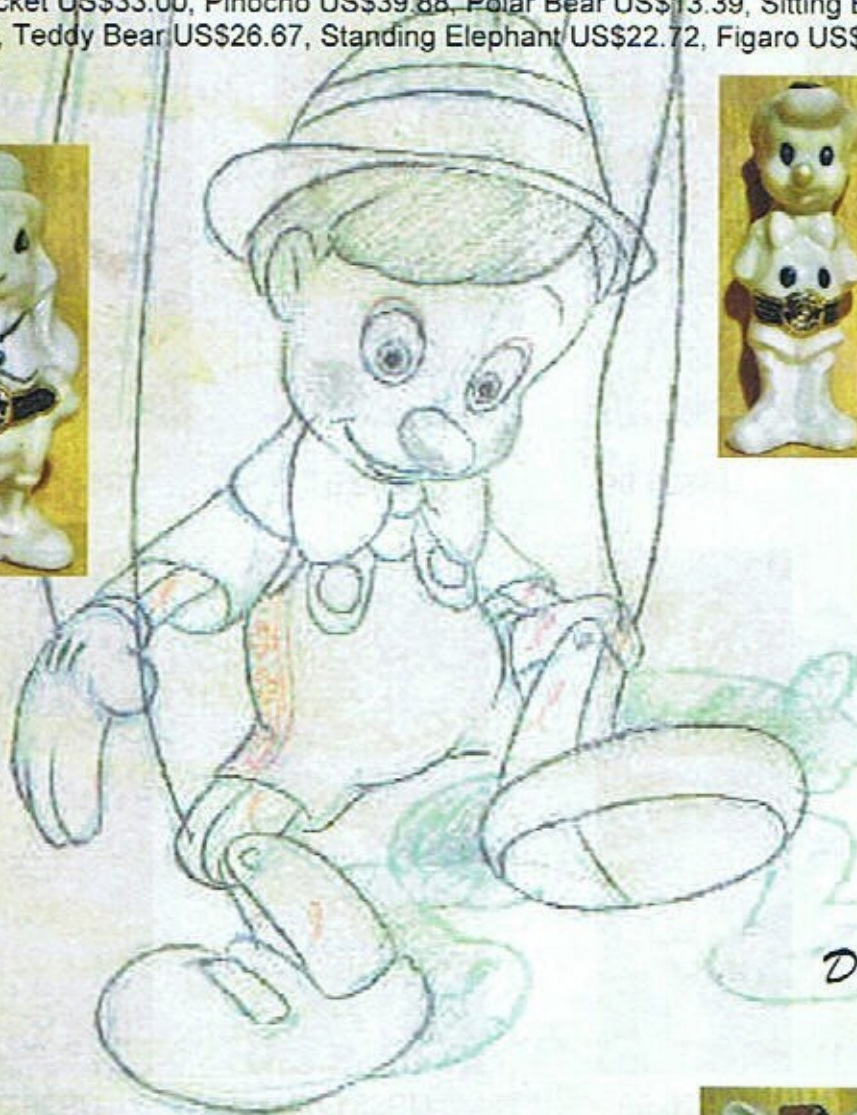
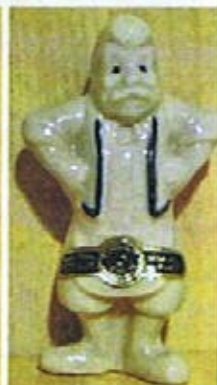


DISNEY MINIS

Until very recently I thought that the only Disney characters made into minis were Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs – and these were unauthorised and incurred the wrath of Disney. I was wrong.

Manhattan made a set of 10 bottles in 1940 for the opening of Pinocchio on February 7th of that year. This was only the third full length cartoon. The bottles contained non-alcoholic cordial as Disney never wanted to be associated with alcohol. I have 9 of the 10 shown here – the missing bottle is of Giddy, a nickname for Gideon, one of Pinocchio's adversaries in the film.

The bottles were all for sale on Ebay and fetched the following prices: Geppetto US\$26.22, Jiminy Cricket US\$33.00, Pinocchio US\$39.88, Polar Bear US\$13.39, Sitting Elephant US\$22.72, Teddy Bear US\$26.67, Standing Elephant US\$22.72, Figaro US\$32.55, Duck US\$13.39



David Smith



DRIOLI JUGS

Over the years Drioli put out a prodigious number of bottles. Most are well known to collectors but rare examples do turn up from time to time. The eight ceramic and metal jugs shown here were sold individually on Ebay and, with one puzzling exception, sold remarkably well for Drioli bottles. There is nothing different about the exception and, if you analysed the bids, I am sure you would find that the high prices were obtained by only two (possibly three) collectors bidding against each other. And that both already had the 'cheap' jug.

I will let the pictures speak for themselves, with sale prices underneath.



US\$63.51



US\$26.99



US\$52.01



US\$41.52



US\$46.02



US\$26.99



US\$31.03



US\$6.30

Italian ceramic minis tend not to be too highly regarded in New Zealand, probably because many were imported in the 1960's and 70's. There is an old saying that familiarity breeds contempt. Pity, as some are spectacular.

David Smith

NEVADA BROTHELS #1

Last October, Nancy and I celebrated my Sister's birthday by taking her on a trip to Las Vegas, and then to Sequoia National Park. While in Las Vegas we hit the big casinos each night but during the daylight hours we visited all the National & State parks around that area. On the second day, after leaving Red Rock Canyon National Park, we were headed up to Spring Mountain National Park when we drove through the small town of Pahrump.

All of a sudden we passed by a place called **The Chicken Ranch** and then about 400 meters later we came to **Sheri's Ranch**. I just had to stop in for a look since I had both of these mini decanters represented in my mini bottle collection. Of course,



my wife & sister didn't like this idea much, but they finally agreed, and told me they would be timing me. Wam! Bam! I was in and out quickly with an actual business card from each place, and nothing else happened (the New Zealander's at this point will be sounding like the Tui billboard ads!!). I liked Sheri's best, by the way. As it turns out these two Brothels are the closest to Las Vegas (only about 45 minutes away). I immediately thought how good it would be to do a series of articles on Captain Dug's Brothel decanter series.

Included in this article are pictures of the Capt Dugs Brothel decanters associated with the Chicken Ranch and

Sheri's ranch. The Mini Brothel Decanter to the left is actually the 5th decanter made and is one of two Chicken Ranch Brothel decanters made. This one was first introduced in 1979, and only 1500 were produced.

Pictured on the right, is the other Chicken Ranch Brothel decanter that was introduced in 1986.



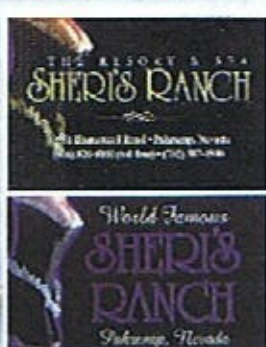
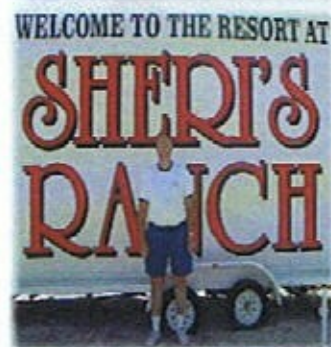
This was the 29th Brothel decanter in the series, and again, only 1500 were produced.



The last picture on this page shows the Sherri's Ranch Decanter that was introduced in 1988. This was the 36th decanter of the Brothel series with, again, only 1500 minis produced. One interesting fact about this one is the spelling. While the correct name is "**Sheri's**", the decanter front shows "Sherri's", and the decanter back shows "Sherry's" I hope you enjoyed the pictures in this article. In future issues of miNiZ I will have articles and lots of

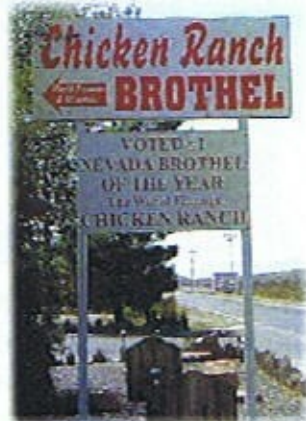
pictures showing all of the decanters in the Captain Dugs Brothel series, including the seldom seen Prototype of a Brothel Decanter that never made it to production.

I will leave you this time with collages of the real brothels – sorry that I keep getting in the way of the photos!



*The World Famous
Historic
Chicken Ranch*

The Best Little Whorehouse In The West!



Jim Crawford



KLM 87

Each year KLM brings out another Dutch Building miniature. This is #87 which was issued last October.

This building is the Pepper House in Enkhuizen. The pepper house is the oldest building of the Zuiderzee museum. The first stone was laid in 1625 by trader Pieter van Berensteyn, who used the building not only as his home but also as his office. In 1682 the chamber bought Enkhuizen from the United Oostindische Company for 2600 guilders and used it as warehouse.



AS SEEN ON EBAY #15



The Bellboy (Bellhop in the USA) has no labels or other markings but is claimed to be a liquor bottle. I suspect that it was a give-away. Sale price was a poor US\$7.00

The Barette from Manhattan is one of a series of bar related items containing micromini bottles. This one has three as you can see. I would have liked to have bought this myself but



when I saw who I was bidding against (someone who goes as high as is necessary to get a bottle) I didn't bother. Also, the person selling it did not take Paypal, which would make paying for a single bottle very expensive. It sold for US\$14.72

We showed you a blown glass giraffe in the last miNiZ. This one is a pre WW2 bottle from Southern Sales of Florida. It is 146mm (5.75") high and contains peach cordial. It sold for US\$45.44



The car is a 1911 Renault from Garnier, also of France. Bidding was lively and the final price of US\$21.50 probably accurately reflected it's worth.



The building on the right is of the Arco di Constantino (Arch of Constantine). It was built in 315AD (the arch not the bottle!) to commemorate the triumph of Emperor Constantine over Maxentius at the battle of



Milvian Bridge (just north of Rome) in 312AD. I would have liked to have bided on this and would happily have paid more than the US\$8.25 it sold for, but the terms were too restrictive. Serves the seller right that he got this paltry amount – buildings usually sell well. I had two reasons for wanting this. It is one of the few Italian building bottles that I do not have, and, as you can see, I photographed it whilst in Rome last year (that is The Colosseum on the right).



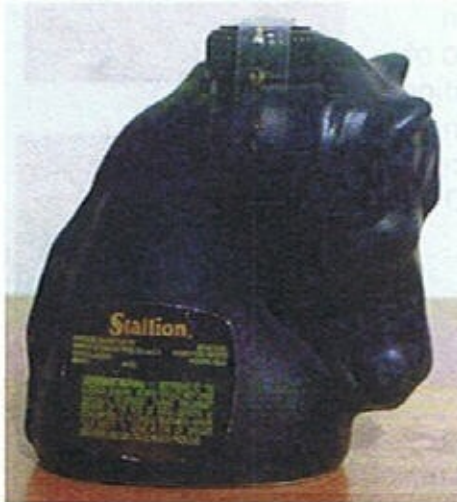
This strange curved bottle clearly has a label, as you can see the edge of it on top, but the seller neglects to say who made it. I'm fairly certain that what you see is the edge

of a Drioli label. Clearly some collectors knew what it was as it sold for US\$52.99

The Dutch lady on the right was sold empty, unlabelled and without a cap. It is not from a set of Dutch ladies that I recognise. It sold for a mere US\$4.25



This bull bottle shared the same fate as the Arch of Constantine, shown above. Although an unusual and desirable bottle it failed to sell as the seller wanted a small fortune for postage – at a minimum bid this would have cost NZ\$50 delivered to New Zealand.



Tequila's normally sell well so I would have expected the Stallion horses head to sell but no one was prepared to pay a minimum US\$15.55. It contains 5cl of Anejo Tequila.

Rosie, my partner, collects frogs, so I had to buy the one on the right as it is one of a very few frog minis. I paid US\$19.99 – not bad for a mini that dates from 1934 - 1938. It is part of a set of six known as



Humoristiques. The Dog and Duck in this series seem to turn up much more frequently than the Hen & Chicks, Snail and Pelican. Garnier also made an Elephant which is not a Humoristique but is often shown with them.

We start the next page with a mini crystal captain's decanter from Hardy Cognac, complete with original box. After 15 bids it sold for US\$127.50. It was good to see a

bottle so hotly sort after as lots of bottles are currently either not selling or selling for a minimum bid.



The two bottles, above, right, contain Kiwifruit Liqueur. They are from the Azores and were sold as a pair – or rather they were not sold. The seller had a reasonable minimum bid of £4.99 but they wanted £11 for postage.



The Accordion Player is from Isiah of Japan. It sold for US\$14.50. The Warrior is from Gagliano of Italy. Bidding was very lively and it eventually sold for US\$31.51. Next up is another Gagliano bottle. The masked figures sold for US\$29 to the same buyer as the warrior. The final Gagliano bottle is the Gondola. This sold for US\$15.56. The Turtle or Tortoise is also an Italian bottle, this time from Corfino. Bidding for this was also fierce and it sold for US\$31.51. The Irish Guard Soldier is from Gallweys. This sold for US\$11.56 – I would have expected more.

The first picture on the next page is a Brothel bottle from Dug's of the USA. It is not



officially part of Dug's Brothel Bottle set as it was commissioned in 1982 by the Mustang Ranch and sold only at the brothel. For that reason it is very difficult to obtain. It sold for US\$125.50



The two Nicholoff Bears both sold well. There appears to be three sets of these, each with three different poses. One set has red hats, one has white hats and the third set is all brown. The white Russian sold for US\$51.99 and the red for US\$21.38

The two strange Scottish guys on the left were made by W.L.S. They both sold for minimum bids, US\$9.99 & US\$12.99 respectively.

Talking of strange guys, the Robber on the right is from Kramer's of Germany. It contains 50ml of Halbbitter. US\$17.67 secured it. The same seller sold four more unusual items. The weight is filled with 100ml of obstwasser and sold



for US\$3.99. The stove also contains 100ml of obstwasser (whatever that is). It sold for US\$12.50. Unfortunately the label was missing from the iron. This obviously affected the price as it sold for only US\$6.57. The boot was made by Wolfgang Picht of



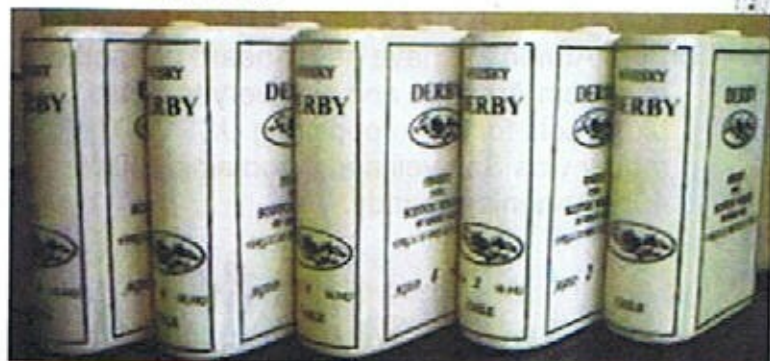


Germany. It contains 100ml of Harzer Grubenlicht. It sold for US\$6.57

Philosophically Lincoln and Lenin are a long way apart but in this case they were both made by McGown and Cameron under the Old Store brand. Both contain malt Scotch. Lincoln sold for US\$17.50 and Lenin for US\$15.50.



The Dutch pair to the left were made by J C Boldoot of Amsterdam. They are a mere 76mm (3") high. Bidding was lively and they eventually sold for US\$88.50.



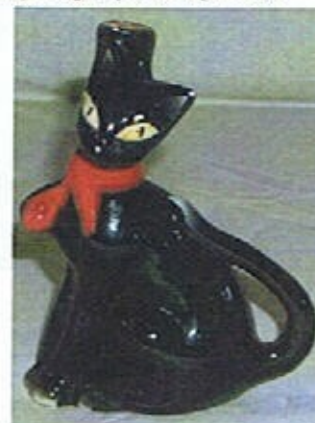
The set of 5 Derby Whisky books are from Chile. They each contains 50ml of, presumably, Chilean whisky. The ages of the whisky vary, otherwise they are the same. The set sold for US\$76



The British Policeman and Quasimodo (the Hunchback of Notre Name) are both from Beinasco of Italy and both were being sold from Uruguay. This just shows how international our hobby is both in theme and geographic spread. Both are between 125 and 150mm tall and both sold for

a minimum asking price of US\$16.99

The cat is another Italian miniature, this time from Borghini. It sold on a minimum bid of US\$5.99. This price was kept down



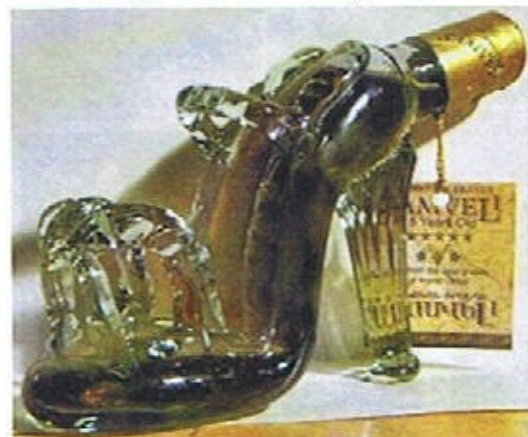
by the honesty of the seller who pointed out that there were a number of very small chips.



The Grey Squirrel holding an acorn is from Baltabarin of Japan. It stands a mere 70mm (2.75") high. These minis are well regarded and sort after and this one was no exception. It sold for US\$31

Chobolobo sounds like a South American dance but it is actually the name of the building bottle on the right. The Chobolobo mansion is the home of

Senior Curacao in, of course, Curacao. Naturally the building contains Curacao, 100ml. This bottle is a welcome addition to my extensive collection of building bottles. I bought it for US\$20.50



Now for some glass minis, but not just any glass minis. The first one, the ladies shoe, is from Armenia! I have never heard of another mini from Armenia and was very tempted to bid. It sold for a disappointing US\$11. The maker was Samveli and it contains 100ml of 40% Armenian brandy.

I showed you a ship-in-a-bottle in the last miNiZ and here is another. This one is from Hungary and contains 100ml of Tokaji (Tokay), the famous Hungarian fortified wine. It stands 150mm (6") high. Disappointingly it sold for a minimum bid of US\$19.90



The two roses also contain 100ml of Tokaji; each is 175mm (7") high. They were on sale separately for a very reasonable minimum bid of US\$9.90. The yellow rose sold for this but the red rose failed to sell.

The lady (Flapper) is a 1920's give-away, the first, and best, of several I have to show you. This one is German but the other two are, cheaper, Japanese versions from the same



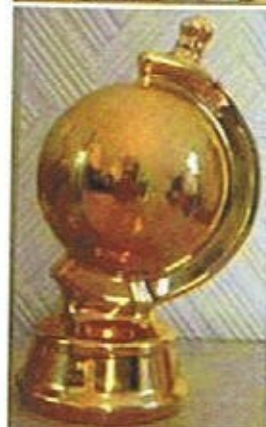
period. Many of the Japanese ones were copies of earlier German ones. The flapper sold for US\$114.38, the "What a Night" and "A Wee Bit O' Scotch" for US\$15 each.



The Apricot lady by Hans Moser was bought, by me, for a minimum US\$1 bid – much to my surprise! I can't tell you anything more about it until it arrives. I do not even know whether it is ceramic or painted glass. I bought the Lionstone Strong man from the same seller for US\$10. This is one of the rarer Lionstone Circus pieces.



The green bottle contains Leprechaun Irish whisky and, no doubt, is meant to represent a leprechaun. It is a bottle that I have never seen before and I suspect neither had a lot of other people as a number of collectors were after it, however it only sold for £6.67.



The gold Globe contains 50ml of 40% Janneau Armagnac. The pottery was made by Veritable Porcelain of France. Again this bottle was well sort after and this was reflected in the £22 price tag.



The squirrel with the outsize acorn is Italian (I think) but the seller did not say who made it. It is a small ceramic at only 89mm

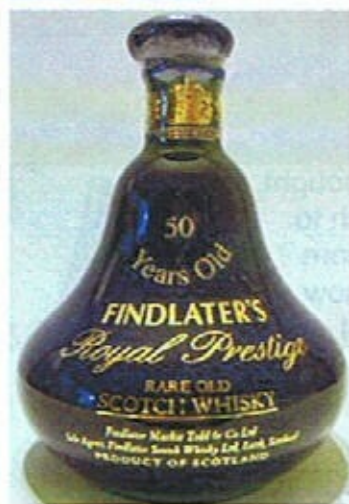
(3.5") high. It sold for a disappointing minimum bid of US\$4.95

For the final page it is about time we had at least a couple of straight bottles again. I did not expect a cocktail, such as the Gordon's Fifty-Fifty, to sell well, if at all, but this one went for US\$6. These bottles date from the 1930's but several boxes of a set of 5 of these turned up during renovations of an old pub in Dunedin in the 1980's and



were subsequently sold, mainly in a pub and second hand shop in Temuka. Consequently these are common in NZ and most NZ collectors (who want them) have them in very good condition.

Clubman's Gin was bottled in the Philippines and is obviously quite old, although the vendor does not say how old. I sold for US\$14.76. Single straight glass bottles do not sell more often than not and most that do sell for a minimum bid. This is one of the exceptions that show that a good bottle will get competing bidders.



A few years ago the club bought a couple of dozen Findlater's ship's decanters from a source in the UK that was stuck with them. We then on-sold them, cheaply, to our members. They looked almost exactly like this one, the only difference is the 50 Years Old – and what a difference that makes! This bottle sold for US\$103.50 after 13 bids.

The cat and the Corvette are two other bottles that fetched high prices. The cat would be one of the more

unusual bottles from American company Raintree, better known for their clowns. It sold for US\$26.78. The 1953 Corvette was made by Famous Firsts in 1978 and sold to *guarch* in 2006 for US\$36.85. The racing car is the Indy Racer also from Famous

Firsts. Vehicles always sell well and this was no exception as it sold for US\$31.



Is it a bird? Is it a plane? Well, yes, it actually is a bird. This unusual Argentinean mini from Brugia Paglia is one that I had not seen before and could not resist buying. A bargain I thought at US\$6.15.

David Smith

A FEW SPECIAL COGNACS

When I was assembling this edition of miNiZ I realised that there were no articles on 'straight' bottles. As editor I can only do so much and really do need members to get their cameras out and put pen to paper (preferably the electronic type). I had just bookmarked some unusual (and expensive!) Cognacs on Ebay, intending to show them to you in a future 'As Seen on Ebay' article. It was a simple matter to find a few more interesting Cognacs to complete the article.



The Martell XO sold for £72.00 (another, identical, sold for only US\$10.49 two days later – probably because the seller had accidentally ticked the box for 'Pick-up Only' and he lives in Taiwan!). The Chabasse XO went for £82.00 and the Chabasse XO Imperial fetched £83.00. Great bottles but somehow I cannot see Rosie agreeing to my spending NZ\$240 on a 50ml bottle – or any other size for that matter!



I bookmarked the Caussade as I have the identical one for sale on my own web site, <http://community.webshots.com/user/minizv> and was interested to find out how much it was worth – not as much as I thought it might be as it sold for £4.99

To the left we have a most unusual Cognac, Cognac Turista. It was imported into Texas in 1930 and sold recently for a surprisingly low US\$9.99. Disappointing for the seller but not for member Harland Johnson, the buyer.

Next, when is a Cognac not a Cognac? When it's a Ukrainian Cognac of course! Ukrainian Cognac?!?! Apparently the Ukraine hasn't got any laws protecting names linked to places of origin. These are nice bottles though (see next page). The Alexx VSOP Gold is 50ml, 40%. It sold for a US\$24.99 minimum bid. The Klinkov VS 5 Star is 50ml, 42%. It failed to



get a bid but the minimum was a, rather high, US\$24.99.

Now back to the real thing. The Hennessy Timeless is another rare and expensive Cognac. As you can see it comes in it's own display box. It sold for a minimum bid of £70.00



I would have expected the four Baron Cognacs to sell for more than they did, US\$19.99. The lovely Frapin Extra did rather better. It sold for US\$29.99



Cognac, which has a worldwide reputation to protect, has established very strict rules to protect consumers but also to prevent its production and presentation from being counterfeited. This implies compliance to many rules for distillation, stocking, ageing, assembly, etc. A cognac that is ready to be commercialised must be at least two and a half years old, starting from the 1st October of the year of harvest. For the different classes of Cognac, it is the age of the youngest spirit

that determines its class.

With V.S. (Very Special), Sélection or de Luxe the youngest spirit of the assembly may not be less than four and a half years old but often the spirits are much older. With V.S.O.P (Very Superior Old Pale) or Reserve the youngest spirit in the assembly is between four and a half and six and a half years old. Napoléon, Impérial, Hors d'âge, Vieille Réserve, X.O and Very Old are all assemblies of spirits that are at least six and a half years old. However, most Cognacs are well above the minimum imposed by the regulations. Some of the most prestigious names assemble spirits that are each at least dozens of years above the minimum required.



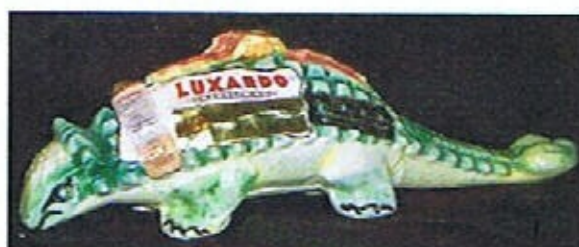
David Smith

LUXADO DINOSAURS

I was never keen on the set of 6 dinosaurs put out by Luxado in 1974 – but evidently some collectors are. This set was put up for sale piecemeal on Ebay during April and I was staggered at some of the prices.



Dimetrodon US\$102.50



Ankylosaurus US\$27.88



Triceratops US\$68.89



Brontosaurus US\$31.99



Tyrannosaurus US\$56.55



Stegosaurus US\$19.08

That makes a staggering US\$306.89 for the set of six!

These were all sold unopened and with all their (too) many labels. The size has always put me off both these and the Wild Animal set, although at up to 110mm high by 240mm long these are even bigger than the Wild Animals.

Isn't it strange how some bottles go out of fashion and others seem to keep going up in value. At any one time there are 100 or so Ski Country minis for sale on Ebay and most now sell for less than they were originally sold for. And yet these are all good quality minis that you think would be desirable. The Dug's Brothel minis, especially the less common ones, are currently going up in value quickly, and yet these too were out of fashion for a time. I would never have picked the Luxado minis as a good investment and now wish I had bought this set for the US\$30 or so that I could have got it a few years ago.

David Smith

Colin Kilpatrick



It is my sad duty to report the death of Colin Kilpatrick. Colin was in his 70's and died suddenly, of a heart attack, at his home in Tarradale on 1st December 2006.

Colin was one of the oldest members of the club. He was among a number of new members that we signed up at the auction the club held in February 1983. For several years during the 1980's Colin was club President and, until the death of his first wife, Ray, was always a very active member of the club.

We saw little of Colin after he re-married and moved to Hawkes Bay but he continued to collect and be a member of the club.

His son, Murray, has been in touch with us and we have helped with a valuation of Colin's collection, which the family wishes to keep.



David Spaid has written to us with further information about some of the bottles in miNiZ issue 76:

The set of Christmas Snowmen was a really short run that Jay and I did in either the very late 1980's or early 1990's. Probably a few dozen sets. The Grenadier Frosty I had made in Japan (same guy who is still making the Hamm's items for me) for Grenadier. I think there were 2400 of them. The R S bottles were Ron Souza who passed away last year...having a hip replacement and his heart stopped. I sold those farmhouses for his wife. He did quite a few bottles. The ceramics were made in Oakland in the 1970's in a backyard kiln. There is also a pair of Easter Bunnies that is quite cute. Some of the bottles are personalized as he knew specific people would want them.

The set of four geese on one bottle has a phony label. Lots of different labels were on this and only a few of them actually represented a company. (I have had to omit the remainder of this section for legal reasons – editor).

The cow towards the end of the As Seen on Ebay article is from Royal Shield of Mexico and they were sold in California during the early 1930's. There are a number of animals as well as a large jug. They are very, very difficult to find.

I would give a great deal for the Delatour Dog (miNiZ 75) or any other minis from that company which operated up to the early 1980's. The owner's name was Victor Nelson...nee Ramirez. When he got married he took his wife's name. He had Ramirez in Puerto Rico and Delatour in St. Croix, Virgin Islands. He had a collector's bottle shop there called King's Cellar (I think), but the King's part is right. He created many, many liqueurs, like Flamboyant, and added mint to things. Essentially he was a chemist. I last talked to him in 1980 when he was in his '80's. He lived six months in Spain and six months in St. Croix. There are a variety of bottles that he did and I've tried to get ones that he didn't send me. In the early 70's I contacted him and he shipped me a crate of bottles. Customs seized it and I talked for two hours to them before they said, we'll look the other way...take it and go. Then it was so damn big I couldn't get it in my Toyota so I had to go back to customs and borrow a crowbar to open the crate!



Q

Imagine you're sitting in a pub with a pint of real ale. Gravity keeps the beer in the glass and the bubbles rise through it. Now imagine that you have a globule of beer floating in a spacecraft in zero gravity. What happens to the bubbles? What direction do they move in. Do they move at all? Are they the same size as on Earth? Would the beer have a frothy head? Are there likely to be any other unusual effects?

A1

In microgravity, surface tension tends to be the driving force behind fluid behaviour. Once released from whatever container it was in, your blob of beer would just float there. However, if you opened a can of beer in orbit, you'd create a nifty little beer cannon that cover the wall with several globs of beer.

Bubbles would still form in your beer globule, because the carbon dioxide would still come out of solution under room temperature and pressure, but they wouldn't move in any direction. Not only that, but the larger bubbles (and head) in Earth beer form because the bubbles float to the top of the glass and bump into each other on the way. Space beer would have a number of bubbles throughout, so you'd just get a foamy mass.

Astronauts aren't allowed to drink carbonated drinks in orbit, because the body relies on gravity to burp excess gas. No beer is one of the many sacrifices one must make for space exploration.

A2

Bubbles are likely to be fewer and larger in microgravity because, as they form, they remain at the nucleation sites instead of drifting off. However, their growth may be slower because it would depend more on diffusion through the liquid and less on circulation. On Earth, the behaviour of beer depends largely on gravity. In free fall, surface tension, momentum, vapour pressure and diffusion dominate, so small bubbles are less likely to meet and fuse, but big bubbles are less likely to reach the surface and burst.

To get a head on top of a zero-gravity slug of beer you first must define where the top is. One way is to catch the slug in a container and substitute for gravity by swinging it round and round, amusing your colleagues by smashing their instruments and splashing them with beer. More elegantly, you can husband a small slug until it is nicely spherical, then gently blow on it to start it rotating. Rotation defines "the top" as being inside the slug, and the scattered bubbles will congregate along the axis of rotation.

Forces hardly noticeable on Earth have weird effects in microgravity and complicate working in space. Localised drying and the lack of convection cause differences in viscosity, vapour pressure and surface tension, which make fluids creep, drift and distort unexpectedly.

DATE, TIME & PLACE

The next meeting is the AGM. Other meetings for 2007 will be decided at the AGM and NZ members will be notified by mail or email.

The AGM is on the weekend of 16/18 February. 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, Otaihanga
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. **You need to let David Smith (04 233 2997 or minidavid@xtra.co.nz) know before the end of January if you are coming with us for a meal as we have to book.**
- Sun 18th Colin & Di Ryder's, 20 Prospect Terrace, Johnsonville
11.00am **Swapmeet**
12.30pm **Barbecue** (BYO everything)
2.30pm **AGM**

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

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ANOTHER DISNEY MINI

Elsewhere in this edition of miNiZ we have an article on 'official' Disney miniatures made for the premiere of Pinocho. By coincidence the bottle on the right was for sale on Ebay at the same time.

This bottle of Annis Royal is about 150mm (6") high and was bottled in Naples, Italy. The glass has a raised figure of the old style 'Steamboat Willy' Mickey Mouse, dating from the 1930's, as well as another picture of him on the label. Unfortunately the label is rather faded but that did not deter the potential buyers. Lively bidding resulted in a sale at £22.50

