

Issue 80

Spring 2007



Celebrating 25 years of

**miNiZ**

THE NEWSLETTER OF PORT NICHOLSON MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



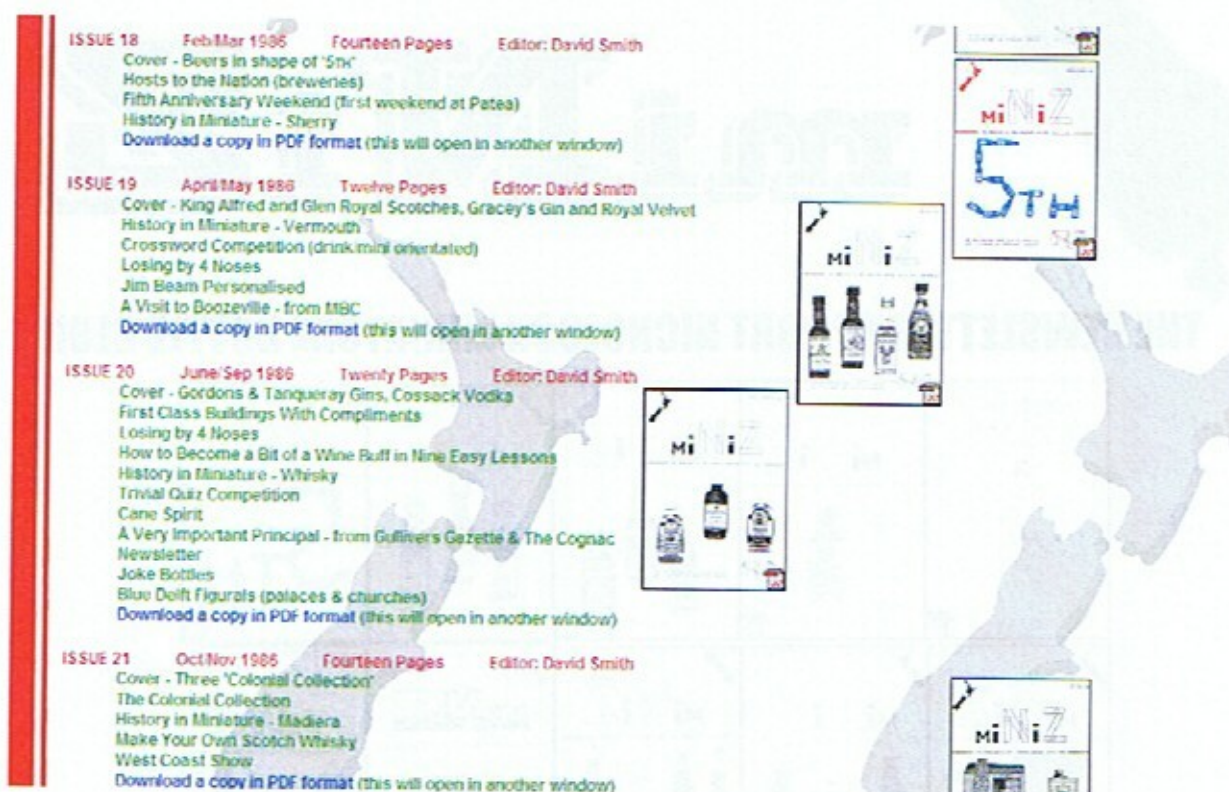
Australasia's only Miniature Bottle Club - [www.minisnz.com](http://www.minisnz.com)



# EDITORIAL

This issue marks the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of miNiZ. The first newsletter issued by the club did not use the name but I have always called it issue 0 as the next one, which did, has always been counted as number 1. The cover shows how our covers have changed over the years starting with cover 1 at top left to cover 74, the current style, at bottom right. Hopefully you see an improvement!

All the back issues of miNiZ are now on the website. Go to [www.minisnz.com/miniz.html](http://www.minisnz.com/miniz.html)



**ISSUE 18** Feb/Mar 1986 Fourteen Pages Editor: David Smith  
Cover - Beers in shape of '5th'  
Hosts to the Nation (breweries)  
Fifth Anniversary Weekend (first weekend at Patea)  
History in Miniature - Sherry  
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**ISSUE 19** April/May 1986 Twelve Pages Editor: David Smith  
Cover - King Alfred and Glen Royal Scotches, Gracey's Gin and Royal Velvet  
History in Miniature - Vermouth  
Crossword Competition (drink mini orientated)  
Losing by 4 Noses  
Jim Beam Personalised  
A Visit to Boozeville - from MBIC  
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**ISSUE 20** June/Sep 1986 Twenty Pages Editor: David Smith  
Cover - Gordons & Tanqueray Gins, Cosseack Vodka  
First Class Buildings With Compliments  
Losing by 4 Noses  
How to Become a Bit of a Wine Buff in Nine Easy Lessons  
History in Miniature - Whisky  
Trivial Quiz Competition  
Cane Spirit  
A Very Important Principal - from Gullivers Gazette & The Cognac Newsletter  
Joke Bottles  
Blue Delft Figurals (palaces & churches)  
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**ISSUE 21** Oct/Nov 1986 Fourteen Pages Editor: David Smith  
Cover - Three 'Colonial Collection'  
The Colonial Collection  
History in Miniature - Madeira  
Make Your Own Scotch Whisky  
West Coast Show  
Download a copy in PDF format (this will open in another window)

We have withheld the last 8 editions (two years) on the website but these are available to members on request.

Unfortunately, for the second issue in a row, I have not got any new New Zealand bottles to show you. Either there have been no new ones or my usual spies are not being their normal efficient selves! The only reason my own collection has continued to grow lately is by buying off Ebay, although I have got some bottles on the way to me from a deceased estate of an old friend (Wayne Andrus) in the US. It's nice to have the bottles but I would far rather still have the friend!

If you are looking to buy, Pam Fowler still has some minis for sale. You can contact her direct on [pamderm@xtra.co.nz](mailto:pamderm@xtra.co.nz) Pictures of her bottles are still on my web site. Look for the album **Pams Bottles - For Sale** on <http://community.webshots.com/user/minizv> Unfortunately the photos are not up-to-date so check with Pam for availability. Also on



my web site are some Cognacs being sold by former member Janne Natrass. Look under **Janne's Bottles For Sale** and make her an offer direct on [jannenz@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jannenz@xtra.co.nz)

Just a reminder that members can advertise bottle for sale, or to buy bottles, on the club web site. The service is free, just email us the details at [minisnz@gmail.com](mailto:minisnz@gmail.com) and we will do the rest.

So far there are only eight of us with Club Member Pages and several of them were 'press ganged' at the last AGM. This service is also free to members. Check it out at <http://www.minisnz.com/members.html> Again, just send us a couple of photos and a bit about yourself and we will do the rest. Failing that, come to the AGM in Christchurch next February – I will be there with a camera again! Other than that it will be, as usual, a great weekend.

## ***ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING***

### ***AND BOTTLE WEEKEND AWAY FROM IT ALL***

Having finally got His Worship the Grand High Poobar of the South Island (otherwise known as Robin Mellish) to give us poor North Island Committee members the details of the arrangements for our next AGM and Weekend Away, we were so appalled that we decided to cancel it. (Just Joking!) Arrangements as follows:

#### **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February**

Meet from late afternoon onwards at Robin & Jess Mellish's, 66 Rudds Road, Christchurch. Bring a plate and your own booze for the evening. Phone: 03 389 9706 Robin has one of the best collections in NZ so this is a great start to the weekend.

#### **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February**

Morning & Afternoon:	Collection visits and visits to local bottle stores.
Lunchtime:	Wherever the group decide
Evening:	Richmond Club

#### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February**

Early(ish)	Riccarton Market (bottles are usually found)
12.00 noon	Barbecue at Eric & Cheryl Sutton's, 14C Michigan Place, Westhaven, Christchurch. Phone: 06 383 9686
2.30 pm	AGM – This includes election of officers (hint!)

Bring your swaps. We are not having a formal swap meet as so many bottles change hands as we travel around to see the collections, ie. the swap meet lasts all weekend!

We will decide the meeting dates for 2008 after the AGM and these will be printed in the next miNiZ, which should be out late February/early March.



# INCREDIBLE BEER

It's not often that I show you a bottle that is not a mini but occasionally something special comes along that I have to share with you. The story I have here is of a bottle so special that it is truly a once in a lifetime story.

To the left we have a remarkably well preserved bottle of Allsopp's Arctic Ale brewed in 1852. This was sold on Ebay with the information I have reproduced below. The opening bid on 2<sup>nd</sup> August was US\$1. By midnight of the 3<sup>rd</sup> the bidding stood at US\$226 – a lot of money for a pint of beer! By the end of August 6<sup>th</sup> the bidding had increased to US\$1500. Three days later that had increased to US\$78,200! Surely this was as high as anyone would pay for a single bottle of beer? You would have to be very thirsty! But there was still three days to go. At the close of the auction the bidding stood at US \$503,300 – no this is not a misprint!

In all there were 63 bidders and 157 bids. Bidder 19 was still in the running (original bid US\$2,350) with a bid of US\$503,100 just one day before the auction closed. Bidder 59 overbid 19 by just US\$100 a few minutes later and there the bidding stopped for almost 24 hours. The winning bidder put in a bid in the last 8 minutes – severely upsetting 59 & 19 no doubt.



The story of this remarkable bottle is as follows:

Until the 1850s Allsopp's Brewery was most notable for brewing some of the first India Pale Ales for export to the colonies. In 1852 Samuel Allsopp was approached by Sir Edward Belcher who was about to lead an arctic expedition to search for the lost explorer Sir John Franklin. The Expedition needed a brew that would withstand arctic and sub arctic temperatures, and provide a degree of sustenance and nutritious value. Captain Belcher reported that Allsopp's Arctic Ale proved to be "a valuable antiscorbutic", helping fight off scurvy, the bane of all sea voyages in those days. He added that the beer was "a great blessing to us, particularly for our sick" and that it refused to freeze until the temperature dropped well below zero.

The bottle sold is a museum quality, sealed and intact bottle of Samuel Allsopp's Arctic Ale brewed for the 1852 Expedition to the Arctic led by Sir Edward Belcher. This bottle of beer is likely the rarest, oldest, and most documented bottle of beer in existence! Not to mention the unbelievably unique history surrounding it. Accompanying the bottle is an actual limited handwritten history about the bottle itself. It reads as follows:



*"This ale was specially brewed and bottled in England, in 1852, for Kane's Expedition in search of Sir John Franklin. A portion of the lot was cached in the Arctic; and was afterwards taken back to England, where it was bought by Allsopp, from whom Mr. Jus. Fennell obtained a part.*

*This bottle was given to me by Mr. Fennell May 13, 1919. Should I depart from this (by that time probably) dry world before consuming the contents, let my son and brethren perform my duties and enjoy my rights in that respect, on the eve of my funeral (if they find it in time) – unless such act be then illegal, in which case those of the aforesaid trustees who sufficiently learned in law shall advise ac-????? To the rule of ey fares.*

*Two bottles of this ale were guests of honour at the banquet given to Shackleton and Peary, in Boston, some years ago. (1907/1908) The skeletons of said guests were preserved as mementos of Sir John Franklin! (Useful suggestion regarding the "cast off shell" of the spirit.)*

*Signed: Percy G Bolster*

Research seems to point toward Percy Bolster being an attorney in the Boston area in the early 20th Century. The Kane mentioned is certainly Elisha Kent Kane (1820-1857), a famous American arctic explorer, who was a member of the first Grinnell Expedition in search of Franklin, 1850-1851; and commander of the second Grinnell Expedition, 1853-1855. However, he was at home giving lectures in 1852.

The handwritten note was laminated some time back. The bottle itself is in excellent condition, still full and wax sealed over cork. The fill line is possibly the original fill line for the bottle. The wax seal appears lightly chipped in one area. Most collectors in the know would consider this the rarest bottle of beer in the world!

This bottle's history is amazing. Think...two bottles were sent over for the celebration of Peary and Shackleton's North Pole expedition, in Boston, over 100 years ago, and those bottles were considered a rare treasure at that time! Research suggests that this is the oldest known sealed bottle of beer in the world. The bottle that was previously believed to be the oldest was a bottle of 1869 Ratcliffs.

So what about other bottles of alcoholic beverages? The world record price paid for a full bottle of wine was a Chateau Margaux 1789 that was part of Thomas Jefferson's personal collection. It sold at Christies of London in 1989 for US\$265,000. There was also a reasonably recent sale of the worlds oldest sealed bottle of Scotch (1858), without exceptional history, at £14,000 (approx NZ\$38,000). An older bottle of Scotch turned up and was sold in September 2007 for £29,400 (NZ\$80,000). This is a bottle of The Bowmore single malt from 1850 with a perfect label. The distillery wanted to buy it but was beaten by an anonymous telephone bidder.

My thanks to the Italian Miniature Bottle Club for bringing this auction to my attention.

*David Smith*



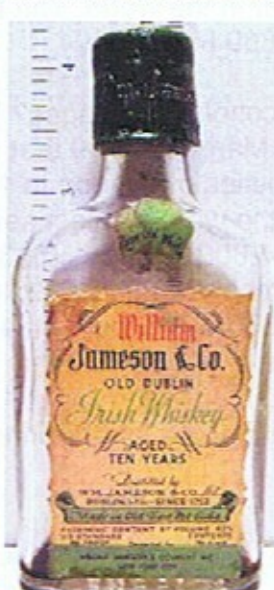
# A DROP (OR TWO) OF IRISH

There have been a few unusual Irish Whiskies sold on EBay lately, so I thought that I would share a few with you.



What better to start with than an old cork sealed Jamieson's made for Aer Lingus, Ireland's national airline. This sold for £22.00. Michael Collins was an Irish rebel (terrorist) or patriot, depending on your point of view. A minimum bid of US\$4.99 was not achieved (seems that terrorists, sorry patriots, are not in demand at present). I don't know who John J Murphy was, and it is a shame that someone has put a modern cork into the bottle, but he sold well at £5.50. Pearl is another old bottle, supposedly from the 1910's. Surprisingly it went for only £19.99. Next we have two modern ones. Merrys sold for a modest 3 Euro. Buena Vista does not sound at all Irish. It was

bottled for a San Francisco restaurant of the same name. It sold for US\$10.99.



The Jamiesons on the left is a real gem. It was made in the 1930's and sold in 2007 for US\$27.00. Finally, we have a framed set of the best known Irish whiskies. This measures 317x254mm and is available from <http://stores.ebay.com/Emerald-Isle-Gifts> for US\$49.50

*David Smith*



## BLOWN GLASS TO DROOL FOR

Over the past few months there have been some very nice old blown glass miniatures for sale. Some of the prices that these are now fetching are spectacular so I thought I would share a few with you.



I've always been a person who wants to save the best until last but I'm making an exception this time. The Rynbende blown glass Stag (or is it a Moose with antlers like that?) is from the 1930's. He has a full rack of antlers and is in a running position. The piece is approximately 115mm (4.5") tall and measures 200mm (8") from nose to extended leg. He has his labels intact and there are no breaks, chips, cracks or missing parts. The tax label is from Illinois and is dated either 1931 or 1937. It contained Peach Liqueur which has solidified. This sold for an incredible US\$425 after 12 bids.



I wish the next seller would learn to photograph on a neutral background as the gaudy colours he has used detract considerably from the bottles.

I am a bit suspicious of the two storks on the same stand. I suspect that they were two separate minis that had broken feet and so were mounted on the stand. Not mentioned by the seller is the obvious damage to the beak of the right hand bird. The right hand bird is filled with blue Curacao, the left with Apricot liqueur and they are about 180mm (7") tall.

Despite the problems these sold for US\$152.50

The Reindeer on the right was made by the Popper-Morson Corp. of New Jersey – a company also known as Pete Hagen. It stands about 150mm (6") tall and is filled with crème de menthe. US\$327 bought it.







Now for yet another Reindeer, this one from Manhattan. This one is 165mm (6.5") high. Unfortunately part of one of the antlers is broken but it still sold for US\$232.50

The Donkey or Horse on the right is another bottle from Popper-Morson. It stands about 150mm (6") tall. This went for US\$224.50.

Another one, containing crème-de-menthe, fetched only \$38.50 a few weeks later. Also from Popper-Morson we have the Dog in a sitting position. This is a bit smaller at 115mm (4.5") but again, at US\$197.50, it sold well.



Just for a change I want to show you a blown glass mini that is not an animal or bird.

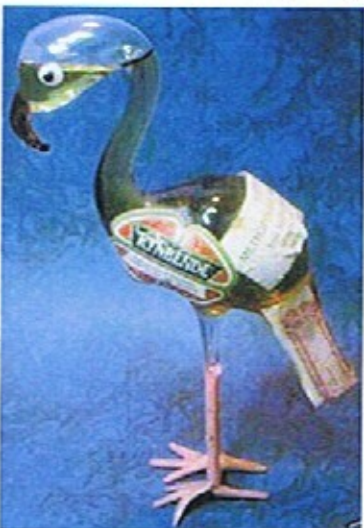
On the right is the Manhattan Harp. This is probably 1930's and contains crème de menthe. US\$134.70 bought it.



The bottle on the left is from Rynbende and was sold as a Stork, although the beak shows that clearly this is not the case. Whatever bird it represents it is 165mm (6.5") tall and contains Apricot Liqueur. It sold for a whopping US\$421. Sticking with Rynbende we have a Flamingo. This is just a few mm shorter than the last bottle and also contains

Apricot Liqueur. This sold for only US\$31.09 – no wonder he is hanging his head in shame! The Rooster, also Rynbende, did not do any better at \$31.00. He is 133mm

(5.25") tall and full of, you guessed it, Apricot Liqueur.



The first bottle on the next page is much more modern than the others so I would not have expected it to sell well but in fact it went for US\$43. The Chicken was made in the 1990's by Silver State, a company run by David Spaid and two partners, Jay and Harry, and so was probably made in a very short run. It is 90mm (3.5") tall and contains Mint Cordial.





The Rynbende Horse (right) gets us back into three figure sales, US\$236.50 in this case. It is 127mm (5") high and, just for a change, is full of Cherry Liqueur.



We stay with Rynbende for the Bull, which an Illinois tax stamp identifies this as being from 1937. He stands approx. 100mm (4") tall and is 140mm (5.5") from nose to tail and contains Peach Liqueur. A mere US\$310 bought him! The other bull has no label and I don't recognise it. Note the ring through the nose. He is 140mm (5.5") long x 64mm (2.5") high. This sold for US\$19.99



The two Ducks on the left are both from Pete Hagen. They are 150mm (6") high.



The first is empty and sold for US\$27.11. Surprisingly the second, full one, only went for US\$33.34

Sticking with birds we have two Penguins. The first is from Pete Hagen and sold,

empty, for US\$32.11. The second is 140mm (5.5") high and



is a 1930's bottle from Rynbende. It has a 1937 Illinois tax label. US\$87.11 bought it.



Next we have a series of Rynbende bottles. The rabbit on the left is

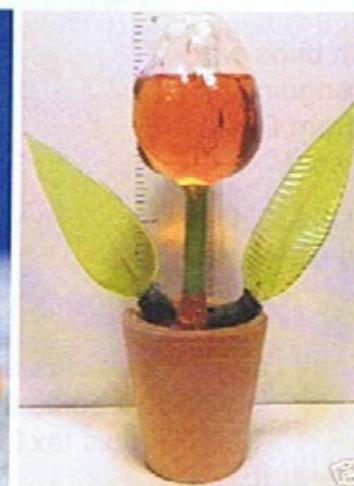




also a 1930's bottle. It stands 120mm (4.75") high and is still nearly full with apricot liqueur. It sold for US\$127. Starting this page we have a series of other Rynbende bottles. The Giraffe is tall for a mini at 197mm (7.75") but that did not deter the bidders who went to US\$129.01. Interesting it says that the bottle is from Germany. The bird is missing the Rynbende label and is empty. I expected a few dollars but this sold for US\$66.51. Finally we have another Deer. Again, this is from the 1930's and has a 1937 Illinois tax stamp. He is in perfect condition, still contains the original Cherry Liqueur and is 127mm high and just a little longer. He sold for US\$213.50



The first of these Swans is from Jacquin. It is 95mm (3.75") high x 102mm (4") long and still has some of the original Crème de Menthe. It sold for US\$45.99. The next Swan is from an unknown maker but was imported into the US by Briones. About the same size as the other, but only fetched US\$10.49.



Above we have a real mixed bag in all ways. The Baboon is another from Pete Hagen. US\$56 bought it. Next we have a Bols Tulip. I have seen a number of these before but never in a flower pot. Usually they have a long stem and I wonder whether this one was broken and put into the pot to disguise the break. It is from the



collection of Bob Snyder who wrote Bottles in Miniature Vol. I,II,III This exact bottle is featured in Bottles in Miniature Vol. III page 40. Bob did have some strange ideas (such as taking the labels off!) and it is possible that he did this or maybe he bought it this way second hand. It sold for US\$79.89. The Balinese Lady mini is from Southern Sales. It was put up for sale with a 'Buy it Now' of US\$45 and promptly sold.

The last bottle above is a Stag. It is unlabelled but the vendor stated that it was from the 1930's – I doubt it! When I travelled through the US in 1999 there were common in the antique stores and I could have bought them from anywhere from US\$15 to US\$80. However, I didn't bother as they do not, nor have they ever, contained liquor. They contain mercury and are probably from the 1950's or 60's. It sold for US\$140



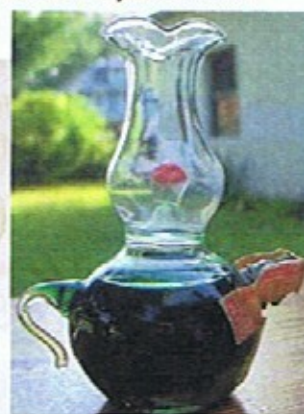
To the right we have another unknown bottle. It is said to be a deer, but who knows? To me it is more like an antelope. This bottle does at least have some liquid in it. Unfortunately there have been some blown glass bottles sold containing coloured water. This may be one of those but probably not as they are usually fully sealed and this one has a cork. It did not sell well with only one bid of US\$19.95

On the right we have a Southern Sales Fox. Containing (just about) Crème de Rose. It failed to get a minimum bid of US\$24.99. On the far right is a running horse from Artistica Artigiana. It contains



LaCrima Cristi Vino Liquoroso and is 114mm (4.5") tall. Competition to buy this was fierce, selling eventually for US\$127.04

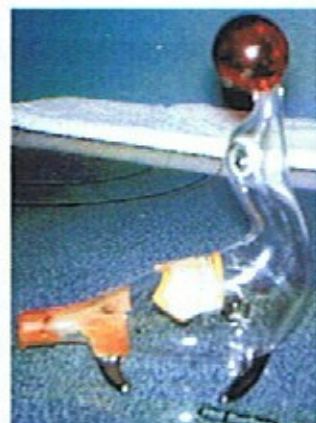
Next we have a Teapot and a Lamp. The Teapot is from the 1940's and was made by Southern Sales. I would have expected it to sell well but it only fetched US\$11.50. The Lamp also did not sell well. It is 102mm (4") high and was made by Pete Hagen. It sold on a minimum bid of \$19.95



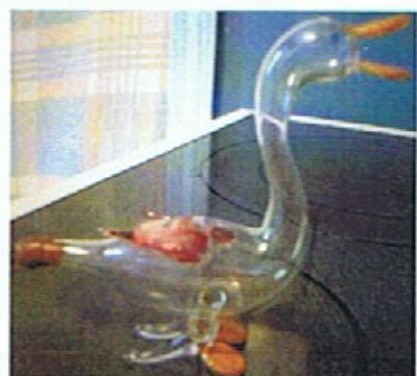
The Daschund is also from Pete Hagen. It is sealed but the Crème de Menthe has dried up. US\$26 bought him.



The Pete Hagen Seal that kicks off our final page only sold for US\$20.50 – here is why. The seller included the following statement “I actually emptied the liquor out. I had sold a few bottles before and I was talking to the post master and she said you cannot send liquor. I didn't know it was a federal offence to send liquor through the post, so now I empty them.” What an idiot!



The next four bottles are again from Pete Hagen. My apologies for the poor quality of some of the pictures.



The empty Goose & Eagle sold for US\$22.25 and US\$14.50 respectively. The Elephant, despite being full, also sold for US\$14.50. I'm sure that it would have sold for more with a better picture. The Pelican sold for US\$36.56. I have no sizes on the first three but the Elephant is 150mm (6") long x 100mm (4") high. It contains Cherry Liqueur. The Goose, left, is from Miniature Specialties and contains Maraschino Cordial. This one was well sort after and went for US\$182.50

*David Smith*

## **OBITUARY**

It is our very sad duty to record the death of Nel Leenmann. Nel was the 'sister' of Auckland VP and Supplies Officer Erica Mulder – a term they used so that people would not get the wrong idea! She was a member for many years, attending the Patea weekend a couple of times and helping with the displays at the Collector's Courts at the Sports and Passtimes weekends at Mystery Creek. Erica describes her as "the kindest, most unselfish and generous person I have ever known. She also loved meeting fellow collectors and mini bottle 'swap' friends in many countries on our trips overseas, as well as welcoming overseas and local collectors to our home."



# NEW VODKAS IN AUSTRIA

At the beginning of June I decided to check up again on what new miniatures were available in some liquor shops in Salzburg. I have been partially successful as I have found two new Austrian vodkas there, or should I say one as one of them is a new brand and the other is a label variation only.

The new brand "WODKA STROGANOFF 40% VOL" comes from the distillery and liqueur factory Franz Bauer in Graz. It is a clear glass bottle with a capacity of 0,04 litres (on the label indicated as 40 ml) with a dark blue metallic screw cap without any print on it. The label is a wrap around transparent foil showing a big silver eagle and a smaller blue eagle on it. On the back there is information in German about the Stroganoff family and their original vodka brand.

The second one, a clear glass bottle with a capacity of 0,05 litres (on the label indicated as 50 ML) is stopped with a metallic screw cap in light blue color without any print on it. It comes from the company J.A. Baczewski in Vienna and its title is "VODKA MONOPOLOWA 40% ALC./VOL. (80 PROOF)". There is a simple white paper label with a blue text and without any decorations affixed on the bottle. It substitutes the previous transparent foil label and its design suggests the original label from the 1800's. A government warning is on the label because this miniature has been designated for the export, mainly for the US market



The last stop on my June trip was the Nannerl liqueur factory in the industrial area in the West of Salzburg. In the firm's shop there have been available lots of miniatures, including vodka based liqueurs as well as the firm's flagship "VODKA ZAREWITSCH 38% VOL." It is a traditional vodka brand but I think there are some new changes on its label. The miniature is a standard shaped clear glass bottle with a capacity of 0,04 litres (on the label indicated as 40 ml). It is stopped with a metallic screw cap in golden color without any print on it. The white paper label shows a drawing of a horsed knight in black and blue colors above the brand name as well as some black printed texts in German. On the left there is the Green Point symbol in blue and on the right there is the EAN code.

Finally I would like to mention an imported vodka miniature I also found in Salzburg. It is the "ERISTOFF PREMIUM VODKA 37,5% VOL." The shaped clear glass bottle has a capacity of 0,04 liters (on the label indicated as 4cl) with a blue metallic screw cap and with a silver logo on it. It comes from France but has been available in Austria for a long time. This one has got a new bottle and label shape and a new label design. The first bottle in the picture is the older version, the other one is new.



*Ivan Uhlik, Austria*



## NEVADA BROTHELS #4

Following up on my article in the last miNiZ, the 18<sup>th</sup> decanter in the Dug's Brothel Series is **Joy of Paris**, which is located in Winnemucca, Nevada. 1400 decanters were made and introduced in 1983. At 6¾" tall & 4" wide, this is the tallest of all the Brothel Decanters.



Next is the 19<sup>th</sup> Brothel Decanter in the series, **Kitty's Guest Ranch**. 1400 decanters were issued in 1983. The brothel was located about 7 miles east of Carson City in Moundhouse, Nevada.



The 20<sup>th</sup> decanter in the Series is the **Green Lantern**, which was located in Ely, Nevada. 1500 decanters were made in 1983, and this has become one of the more expensive decanters in the series.



The next picture shows **Jenny's D&D**, which was the 21<sup>st</sup> decanter in the series.

Jenny's D&D was located in Elko, Nevada. 1500 decanters were issued in 1984.



The 22<sup>nd</sup> decanter in the series is the **Kit Kat Ranch** which is located close to Kitty's Ranch in Moundhouse, Nevada. 1500 decanters were made. These were introduced in 1984. The Kit Kat Ranch is one of the more expensive decanters, so expect to pay a lot for this one if you can find one available.

Next is the **Old Bridge Ranch** which is 23<sup>rd</sup> in the Brothel Series. Located just east of Reno in Mustang, Nevada. 1500 decanters were produced in 1984.





The 24<sup>th</sup> decanter in the series is the **Sagebrush Ranch**, which was located just a few miles east of Carson City, Nevada. 1200 decanters were made and introduced in 1985.

Next is the **New Mustang Ranch**. This is the 25<sup>th</sup> decanter in the series, and was in Mustang, Nevada. 1500 decanters were issued in 1985.



The 26<sup>th</sup> decanter in the series is the **Calico Club**. This was located in Battle Mountain, Nevada. 1500 decanters were made in 1985.



The next picture shows **Irish's Combination Bar**. This was the 27<sup>th</sup> decanter in the series. It was located in Winnemucca, Nevada. 1500 decanters were issued in 1985.



**Penny's Cozy Corner Bar** is the 28<sup>th</sup> decanter in the series. Also located in Winnemucca, Nevada, 1500 decanters were issued in 1986.



The 29<sup>th</sup> decanter was the second of the two **Chicken Ranch** decanters shown in my first newsletter article.

The last picture for now is the **Pussy Cat Saloon**. It was the 30<sup>th</sup> decanter in the series. This brothel was located in Winnemucca Nevada. 1500

decanter were made in 1986. Think this one looks like Irish's Combination Bar? Maybe it's because Irish's Combination Bar was sold in 1986, and renamed to the Pussy Cat Saloon!



To be continued in the next issue.

*Jim Crawford*



# CLOWNING AROUND

In this article I am sure that I will not show you all the clown bottles there are, but there will be a good selection and a few unusual ones and they are all that I can find. If you were short of display space a collection of Circus bottles would look good, be very colourful, and provide a great talking point. I am guessing that a circus collection would not grow much beyond 200 bottles and some of those would take a long time to obtain.

We start with a set of 6 in the 'hard to get' category. These are from an Italian manufacturer, Trase A Feddo. Until these came up for sale I had never even heard of this company and so cannot tell you whether these are all they have made or not. Each clown is about 140mm (5.5") high and contains Bitter Aperitivo Toscano. These six sold on Ebay in October 2006 for between US\$16 and US\$19.50.



Next up we have twelve from US manufacturer Raintree. The three above and the first three on the next page are the first series, which was made between 1975 &



1977. Raintree had a break of six years from making minis, then produced a Clown Band (1983 onwards). These all fetched good money on Ebay; the Saxophonist US\$38.77, the Trumpeter US\$38.79, the Clarinetist US\$19.50, the Guitarist US\$66.50, the French Horn Player US\$87.50 and the Drummer US\$33.50



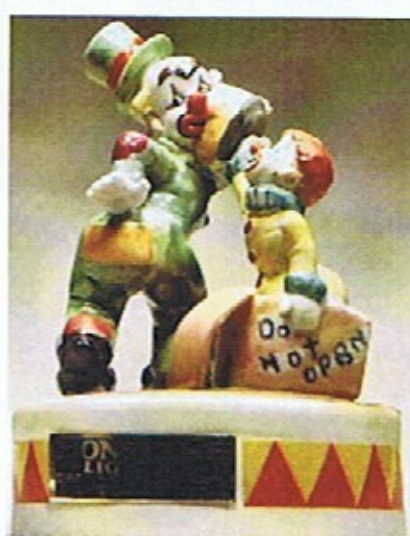
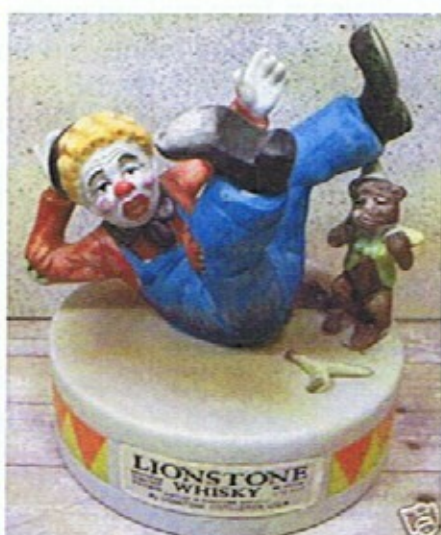
Raintree also made three 'Wedgewood' type plate bottles with clown cameos but I cannot find any good pictures.

Ski Country had a Circus Series but surprisingly the only clown they made was the bust on the right.

In 1978 & 1979 Lionstone made a set of six clowns, each on a round 'circus drum' base. These feature regularly on Ebay and fetch anything from US\$10 to US\$45 each.







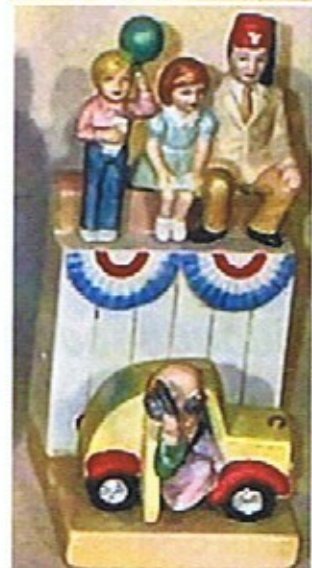
Argentinean company, Forcol, has made one standing clown, and five clown heads, both with lots of painting variations. Shown here are six from my own collection and five variations from elsewhere.







The rarest clowns in my own collection were issued by Mini Bottles UK, owned by member David Maund. They are Goebel pottery, from Germany, and would probably fetch more if sold to a Goebel collector than to another mini bottle collector. People always admire these bottles.



Two of the Shriners Circus bottles from McCormick, shown on the left, feature clowns. These are from a set of six made in 1983 that is rarely sold and if it is, goes sky high. Unusually for American ceramic bottles/decanter the bottles themselves were American made. This set was my Christmas present last year from Rosie (lucky me!)

If anyone knows who made the clown bottle on the right please let me know.

I expected to find a dozen or more clown giveaways but could only find the three at the top of the next page. All three were made by Schafer & Vater. The circle in the middle of the first bottle is a mirror. The middle bottle is obviously a clown but the right hand bottle does not, at first glance, appear to be so. However it is known as the Evil Clown with Whore!







The bottle on the right above is one of the famous Garnier Skittles – the Clown Skittle, of course.

Finally, if you do have any more clown bottles please send me pictures.

*David Smith*

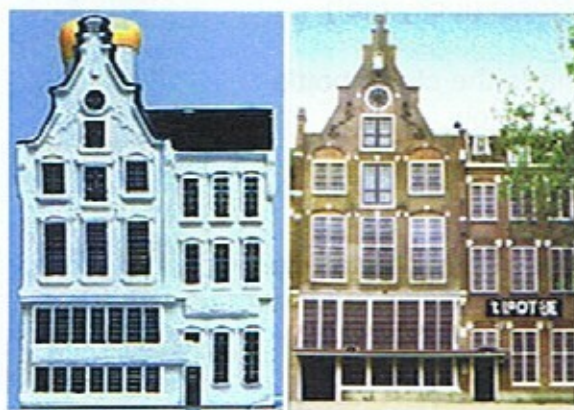
oo

## JUST FOR FUN

E	R	N
T	U	I
A	I	M

How many words of four letters or more can you make from the above letters? Only English words are acceptable, not including place names, brand names or peoples' names. Each letter may be used once only for each word. The middle (red) letter must be in every word. Your list should contain at least one nine letter word. No prizes this time. We will print the list in the next miNiZ.

oo



## KLM 88

On the left we have the latest KLM Canal House and a picture of the real thing known as 't Lootsje. It opened in 1575 as a liqueur distillery and tasting room and was the home of Bols. Ever expanding, Bols bought the houses on both sides. The facade of these buildings has remained unchanged for over four centuries and 't Lootsje remained the Bols tasting room until the early 1970's.