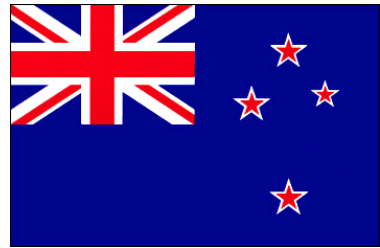


Issue 82

Winter 2008



miNiZ

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW ZEALAND MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



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

DAVID'S RAMBLINGS

No, this is not really an editorial. Firstly I apologise for the late delivery of miNiZ. What with a month's overseas holiday, including taking in the St. Louis Show and getting married in Las Vegas, being very busy at work when I got back, and a bad dose of the 'flu, time has really got away from me. Subject to receiving a few articles from members (YOU!!!) I will get the next issue out on time.

The St. Louis show was well attended with lots of bottles on the tables. Unfortunately very few of those bottles were ones I was looking for. If it hadn't been for a number of collectors bringing bottles for me I would have left with very little indeed. The Midwest club sells the tables for the St. Louis show and has no way of knowing what bottles the sellers will be selling or what the participants in the show are wishing to buy. Obviously what is on the tables (10's of thousands of bottles) varies from year to year and although I found very little, others obviously did well – no complaints what-so-ever. I highly recommend a visit. In fact next year is the 30th anniversary so it will be a bigger show than usual.

Many of bottles I did get at the show came from Fernando Saettone from Peru. All contain Pisco. Just a few photos for you:

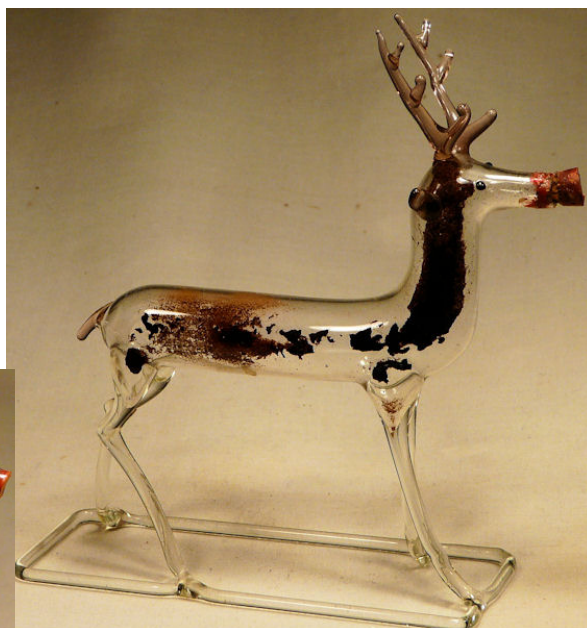


Unfortunately the cars do not say on what they are. The houses are from a series that I have pictured before. These are numbers 21-24. 25 should be out before the next miNiZ is published. Fernando Saettone is a retired architect and he designed the houses especially for the distillery. It's good to be able to in some way combine your business and personal life. I am off to Chile on business next month so it will be interesting to see what I can find there. Last time I went (2002) I found almost nothing so I have to do better this time.

The final building is the Casa de Correos y Telegrafos. Otherwise known as the Post & Telegraph Office. This is in Lima, capital of Peru.

I have no new New Zealand bottles to show you this month (nobody has reported any), however see the next article for two good old bottles never pictured before.

I did however manage to buy some interesting old blown glass bottles from a New Zealand collection being sold and thought that you might like to see them.



One of them is, of course, on the cover. I do have another reason for showing them to you though,

they are all unlabelled. Can anyone tell me who made any of them? I believe that the Stork is newer than the others and, in fact, I have two more similar Storks in my collection – unfortunately also unlabeled.

Talking of collections for sale, see the back cover. Marj Lynch is now in a home (and doing fine) and her son, Rex, is dealing with the sale of most of her collection. Colin Ryder, Ken Chin and myself have been to see the collection and advised on prices. They are priced to sell.

We have a few 2008 St. Louis Show jugs for sale. These are \$22 each, plus postage, from Supplies Officer, Erica Mulder – 09 817 7499, Erica.mulder@paradise.net.nz

As always – **SEND ME SOME ARTICLES!!!**

David Smith

ROMNEY SUPREME WHISKY



Colin Todd sent me the picture on the left. This bottle was discovered by member Brian Osmert from Southland, who swapped it with Colin. It has been on the NZ Miniatures list for years but this is the first time I have been able to picture it. This is plastic but the list also shows a glass version. Can anyone confirm that this exists?

The bottle was put out by the Romney Breeders Association in 1991 to commemorate the introduction of the Romney breed to New Zealand in 1853. The Romney originated from the Romney marshes in England. It proved to be very adaptable to New Zealand conditions with its quality wool and excellent meat for New Zealand's growing export lamb trade. The bottle contains Wilsons whisky.

On the back of the label is printed the poem "Ode to the Romney"

From England's Romney marsh there came
A breed of sheep bearing its name
For destined was this Pioneer flock
The wealth of our nation to unlock

Mother of the export lamb trade
The Romney ewe seemed specially made
a fleece for carpet or apparel fulfils
All the requirements of the mills

They went from plains to hills quite steep
Turned New Zealand into a land of sheep
With international acclaim they won
Now on our Romney's never sets the sun

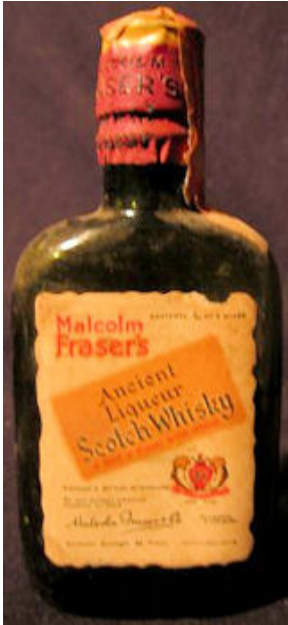
So when the sheep that's all our roast
We will raise our glasses with a toast
To the worlds best breed for pasture green
The New Zealand Romney reigns Supreme

On the left we have another great find, this time from Erica Mulder. Not only have I never pictured this bottle before, the Vin de Mont has never even been reported before.



David Smith

SOME INTERESTING SCOTCH BLENDS



We will start with a few good old ones. Both Malcolm Fraser's and Whiteley's were said to be early 1900's. The Malcolm Fraser Ancient Liqueur is 111mm (4 $\frac{3}{8}$ ") and the Whiteley's Grand Liqueur is 108mm (4 $\frac{1}{4}$ ") tall. They sold for US\$26 each.

Plus Four is approximately 127mm (5") tall and, again, is said to be from the early 1900's. It sold for US\$54.53

The Haig & Haig Blended Liqueur is 114mm (4.5") tall and comes from the 1930's. It too sold for US\$26. A second one, some months later, sold for US\$31.01. One decade newer is the Black & White from the 1940's. This flask is the same height as the Haig and Haig. It sold for US\$13.90



Sticking with black, and again coming newer, we have Black Special. By the closure I would guess that this is a 1950's or 60's bottle. It too is 114mm (4.5") tall. It sold for US\$22.

This Bells is a very familiar name but this bottle may not be as it was bottled in Brazil. Again it is 114mm (4.5") tall. It sold for US\$13.49. Ullrich's certainly does not sound like a name for a Scotch, but this one was bottled in Germany. I don't have the height but I can tell you that it sold for only €6.01

The next bottle (next page) also sold in





Euros this time for €10.01. The Crinan Canal Water was issued, by Cockburn & Co (Leith) Ltd. Smugglers Dram, the Isle of Whithorn sold for £16.50 but unfortunately I have to let the bottle do the talking as there was no other information provided.

The picture on the right is rather small as it was a very small photo on Ebay. The Three Scotches is a blend of three grains (as opposed to the usual blend of malt and grain Scotches). Small picture equated to small price, US\$1.04.



Near to the other end of the price spectrum is another grain whiskey, this time a single grain, Cameronbridge. This was distilled in 1959 and was 35 years old when bottled. The bottle is one of a limited edition of 120 – which accounts for the US\$159.50 price tag.



The Five minis above were made to depict the Scottish Castles of Airlie, Blair, Brodick, Craigievar, & Culzean. They were made for Prestonfield House of Edinburgh and were originally sold in 1989. £27.20 bought them recently.

We started with the first half of the 20th century and we will finish there also. Old Chevalier Brand and Over-Seas Brand both date from the 1930's. Old Chevalier sold for US\$15.50 and the 'Dimple like' Over-Seas sold for \$9.90.



David Smith

MARVELOUS MINIATURE MICE

These Tosano Italian Mice bottles are small for miniature ceramic bottles at about 63mm (2.5") tall and contain liqueur. There is a set of 6 musicians plus Grandma and Grandpa. These were sold on Ebay last March for between US\$43 and US\$91 each. As I cannot tell you anything more about them I'll leave you to look at the photographs – but ain't they cute?



There have been a number of great sets of Italian ceramics made over the years that are not at all well known. I know that Erica Mulder has some and I will try to get pictures of these sometime to share with you. If any more sets come up on Ebay I will share them also.

David Smith

WHAT'S YOUR POISON?

You rush to the bar after a long day's work, planning to down a beer with your pals to unwind. Or maybe you're celebrating a promotion with a bottle of bubbly, or drowning your sorrows with a glass of whisky, or ordering some tequila shots with your crazy old college buddy. Then again, perhaps you want to mellow out with a good book and a glass of brandy, or go for a romantic dinner with your lover and a fine Merlot.

The idea that what you drink dictates your mood is firmly implanted in most drinkers' minds. And there is a ready explanation to hand: different brews have different strengths and their own characteristic mix of trace compounds, and it seems only reasonable that these factors could affect how you feel. But some scientists think we are fooling ourselves: we might as well be drinking pure ethanol diluted with water.

To understand how particular drinks might pack different kinds of punch, it helps to know how the body processes alcohol—or ethanol, to be precise. After you take a drink, the liquid's first stop is in the stomach. As it sloshes around, some alcohol gets broken down and a small amount passes through the stomach wall and into the bloodstream. Then a ring-shaped muscle called the pyloric valve opens up at the bottom of the stomach and your drink drops into the small intestine, which has a much greater surface area than the stomach and so allows alcohol to be absorbed far more rapidly.

At this point you're beginning to feel pretty fine as the alcohol work its magic on your brain. But your liver is already chugging along trying to rid your blood of the poisonous alcohol that's pouring in through the intestinal wall. The liver processes about 15 milliliters of ethanol per hour, roughly the amount in a small glass of wine. How drunk you eventually feel depends on a race between absorption and breakdown: if absorption were instant, you'd feel the full effect of each drink, but in practice the liver will already have cleared some alcohol from your body by the time it is all absorbed.

Some nutrients, including fructose, can speed up the breakdown of alcohol in the liver (*Alcohol and Alcoholism*, vol 26, p 53). But experts scoff at the idea that adding cranberry juice to your vodka, for example, makes for a gentler buzz. "You'd have to eat enormous amounts of fructose. It'd give you a stomachache," says Wayne Jones of the National Laboratory of Forensic Toxicology in Linköping, Sweden.

The liver clears alcohol at a nearly constant rate, so how intoxicated you become depends mostly on how fast the alcohol is absorbed. If the stomach retains alcohol for a long time, its concentration in the blood will rise relatively slowly. But if your drink passes straight through into the small intestine, blood alcohol levels rise rapidly, leading to a correspondingly sudden and powerful intoxication.

Sugars and fats tend to keep the pyloric valve closed longer while the stomach digests them. So drinks that are creamy or sugary will creep up on you more slowly—hence the time-honored idea that a glass of milk will line your stomach. "People don't drink milk and alcohol to get high," observes Robert Swift, a psychiatrist and pharmacologist at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. A high-fat meal consumed with a bottle of wine will keep the pyloric valve shut for hours while the stomach digests the food.

The strength of a drink can also influence how alcohol gets absorbed, but in rather complicated ways. Generally speaking, weaker drinks are absorbed more slowly. Yet downing a shot of whisky on an empty stomach won't necessarily give you a quick high. In some people, strong drinks irritate the pyloric valve, so it clamps shut and keeps the alcohol in the stomach where absorption is slower.

The effects of alcoholic strength get even more complicated when food is involved. In 1993, Charles Lieber and his colleagues at Bronx Veterans Affairs Medical Center, New York, compared the effects of drinking whisky and beer (*Alcoholism—Clinical and Experimental Research*, vol 17, p 709). In men with empty stomachs, whisky raised blood-alcohol levels more quickly than beer. But strangely, the effect was reversed in the men who had eaten first. Because food keeps alcohol in the stomach longer, Lieber thinks this could be explained if the alcohol-metabolizing enzyme in the stomach works more effectively on concentrated alcohol.

The bottom line is that "absorption is really, really unpredictable", says Jones. "You never really know how the stomach is going to react." With so many variables involved, any attempt to control the quality of your alcohol buzz by picking a drink with certain absorption characteristics looks futile.

But of course, ethanol isn't the only substance entering the bloodstream. Fermenters and distillers use a huge range of techniques and ingredients to make alcoholic drinks, creating a corresponding variety of chemicals. Some only affect taste and appearance; others could, in principle, change the type of intoxication that you experience.

For example, most drinks also contain traces of alcohols other than ethanol. "Each has an intoxicating effect, a slightly different one, actually," says Sean O'Connor, an alcohol metabolism expert at Indiana University. He notes that the neural toxicities are different, indicating that the alcohols have different effects on the brain.

The most common alternative alcohol is methanol, the wood alcohol found in antifreeze and paint thinners. But it is also dangerous. People have gone blind or died from drinking methanol, either knowingly or in illicit liquor made cheaply by substituting this alcohol for ethanol.

Even some fruit-based alcoholic drinks such as red wine or plum brandy can contain up to 2 per cent methanol. But Jones thinks you won't notice any difference in the kind of drunkenness produced by these drinks—any additional intoxication from methanol is likely to be masked by the larger quantities of ethanol. You might wake up the next morning feeling awful, though. The liver breaks down methanol into toxic compounds that Jones believes are responsible for the worst hangover symptoms (see "Desperate remedies"). To avoid this, you could try drinking a purer drink such as vodka, which contains virtually no methanol.

As well as a range of alcohols, drinks normally contain myriad substances of various types and origins—including spices and herbs that may have been part of the brew. "Particularly in brandies and whiskies, there are all sorts of strange compounds, the effects of which aren't really known," says Swift.

Among the drinks that purportedly contain chemicals that give them an extra kick, absinthe is perhaps the most infamous. The "green fairy" enjoyed by Ernest Hemingway, Oscar Wilde and Vincent van Gogh developed such a reputation for making people delirious and giving them convulsions that most European countries banned it early in the 1900s.

This electric-green spirit does indeed contain a hallucinogen called thujone, which comes from a herb, wormwood, that is used to flavour the drink. But it is doubtful whether absinthe contains enough thujone to have a noticeable effect. "Unfortunately, not much research has been done and nobody really knows," says Tom Hodgkinson, a partner in the London-based company Green Bohemia that recently started importing absinthe to the United Kingdom from the Czech Republic.

Green Bohemia's absinthe has thujone levels of less than 10 parts per million, as required by European Union regulations on food additives. As it is 70 per cent alcohol, Hodgkinson doubts whether anyone could drink enough for the thujone to make them hallucinate. "You'd have to drink so much that you'd die first. There's no evidence that the levels of thujone in the original absinthe had any effect either."

So could other psychoactive spices such as nutmeg, which also go into absinthe, be responsible for any special qualities? Most scientists doubt it. Indeed, they are skeptical in general that the poison you pick determines your mood. Any apparent effects are probably due to self-fulfilling expectations. If you think drinking whisky makes you violent, you'll be more likely to throw a punch; if you think gin makes you depressed, you'll get a little weepy after a few gin and tonics. "Everyone develops a favorite way to fool themselves that they're in control of losing control," remarks O'Connor.

Many people think champagne bubbles "go to their head" and make them giggly, for example. But champagne is a special-occasion drink, so it's likely that people are already happy before they quaff it. "I think it's a strong psychological effect with champagne," says Jones, though he admits that the carbon dioxide in the bubbles may affect gastric emptying in some unknown way.

Not much research has been done on this, or on the matter of whether trace compounds have an effect. Then there's the question not of which drink, or how much, but how it's served. Some people firmly believe, for example, that you get drunk quicker if you suck your tipples through a straw (see Last Word).

It's not hard to see why there have been few experiments in real-life situations. Given the number of variables that come into play, a real drinking session isn't likely to be reproducible. "If you did the same thing tomorrow, same bar, same clothes, same friends," says O'Connor, "you'd have a different response."

Nevertheless, the experts are pretty much agreed that it's the drinkers' expectations and their alcohol absorption rate that matter, not the label on the bottle. "A screwdriver versus a glass of wine versus a beer really doesn't make that much difference," says O'Connor.

So I'll have what you're having.

Noidea Whowrote This

NEVADA BROTHELS #6

The 40th decanter in the Dug's Brothel Series is **Mabel's Whorehouse**. It was located in Crystal, Nevada right next to the Cherry Patch Ranch and Madam Butterfly's Ranch. 1500 decanters were made and sold 1992. The next picture shows the **Kit Kat Ranch 25th Anniversary** decanter which was the 41st decanter in the series. This one is in my personal top 5 Brothel decanters. This brothel is located in Moundhouse,



Nevada. Only 800 decanters were produced in 1993. All of these decanters quickly sold out and they command a hefty price if you are lucky enough to find one available. The 42nd decanter in the Series is **Salt Wells Villa** brothel, which was located in Fallon, Nevada. 800 decanters were made, and introduced in 1996. The Naval Air Station in Fallon Nevada is the home to the Fighting Saints of VFC-13, the Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center. That is why there is an F-16 on this decanter. I bet a lot of the pilots knew their way around the Salt Wells Villa Brothel!



The first picture on the next page shows **Joe & Sally Conforte's Mustang Ranch** Brothel, which was the 43rd decanter in the series. 1500 of these decanters were issued in 1982. This is another of my personal top 5 Brothel decanters. This one is very hard to get, and is one of the most expensive of the Brothel Decanters. One interesting fact about this decanter is the map is located on the bottom, and not the back of the decanter like most of the others. The 44th in the series (second picture on next page) is **Joe Conforte's Mustang Ranch , 10th Anniversary Decanter**. 1500 of these special decanters were made and sold, at the brothel only, in 1986.





The 45th decanter was **Battle Mountain Ranches**. 1500 special decanters were made, and introduced in 1989. If you look at the top of the decanter, you see this mini represents two different brothels, Calco Club and Desert Club.

The next picture shows the **Moonlight Ranch 20th Anniversary decanter**. This was the 46th decanter in the series and is my favorite Brothel decanter. Only 800 of these special decanters were issued in 1991. It is also one of the most expensive of all the Brothel Decanters.



The last picture is the **Shady Lady Ranch**, which was located just outside of Scotty's Junction, Nevada. It is the 47th (and last) decanter in the series. **This decanter was never produced!** This is actually

one of only 50 Prototypes made in 1999, and this is definitely the most expensive of all the Brothel decanters. Expect to pay US\$400 to \$800 for this one, but only if you can find one for sale.

So the answer to the question from the 2nd article asking how can there be only half a decanter is that only a prototype was made! Collectors are still hoping that someday a real decanter will be produced.

It's been fun writing these articles, I hope that you have enjoyed them as much as I have.



Jim Crawford

AS SEEN ON EBAY #19

Our first few bottles this time have most of the elements of a TV drama – Money, Sex (well, almost) and Gambling.

The gold bar was made in England by Trevelyan and contains Masthead Scotch. The top says "Liquid Assets." US\$16.50 would be very cheap if it had been real!



The three different 50ml brandy miniature books are from Passton. Passton bottles Godet brandy imported from France and bottles it in China. These were made in very limited

quantities in 2003 for the 'Year of the Sheep.' There are three colours but only two photos, a strange choice I thought. The three above sold for £37.24 and a full set of six sold for £123.21 – I'll show you more Passton minis later.

The man a woman in the bath is German but I cannot tell you more – except that it sold for US\$16.05



Above is a complete set of four bottles made for Arizona Charlie's Casino in Nevada. These bottles were made by Dug's (better known for the Brothel bottles) between 1988 and 1993. The first was the Casino building (larger picture shown on next page) and this is almost impossible to get hold of. The other three show Charlie sporting a rifle, hunting Indians on a bicycle, and on horseback. The latter two are the easiest to find, although still not common. The set sold for US\$306.99



The Landmark Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas was demolished a number of years ago, but the mini, made in 1974, lives on. I have had this mini for years and, in all honesty, have never thought very much of it. I now see it differently as this sold for US\$79.95



I have an extensive collection of building bottles and would have loved to buy the Arizona Charlie's Casino mini above. I missed out on the next two as well, but I have only myself to blame for the first as I bookmarked it then forgot to bid! Happily it went to another of our members. The house is German and contains 0.1 litres of Kartoffelschnaps. It was

made by Waldemar Behn Eckerförde and sold for US\$11.05. The Lubeck twin tower bottle went too high for me, US\$41.20. There was no other information with it that I can share with you.



From Germany we will take a train to France. These two Dor bottles are old, although I do not know how old. The loco is 133mm (5¼") long and the carriage 114mm (4½"). The loco went for US\$21.50 and, surprisingly, the carriage for a little more at US\$23.72. We start the next page by again traveling by train, this time to Italy. Drioli is a very well known company but the loco is one





of the less well known bottles. It stands about 120mm (4¾") high and is filled with Cherry Drioli. It sold for US\$23.49

Sticking with Drioli we have a Duck. This is the same size as the loco and also is uncommon but did not sell as well as it only got the minimum bid of US\$6.99. One final Italian bottle is Grumpy from Casa Vinicola Boccacio. He is one of the seven dwarves from the Snow White set which had a limited run until Disney put a stop to them. Grumpy stands 127mm (5") tall and sold for a low £10.03. I thought of bidding, but then why bid on one of seven?



Lets go back to France now for a few more bottles. First another bottle from Dor that I have never seen before, the Spark Plug. This was made in the 1960's, is 152mm (6") high and sold for a mere US\$6.57.



Aladin's Lamp was made by Landy in the 1980's and contains 5cl of Fortune Cognac. It is 64mm (2½") high x 150mm (6") long. £83 bought it.



The next two globes, the blue and the gold, were well bidden for. Both contain Janneau XO Armagnac and

contain 50ml, 40%vol. The blue sold for €53.77 and the gold for €72.00



We will stick with French Brandy but go back to Taiwan for the next four bottles. We have another blue and gold pair to start with. The two horned sheep are from Passton and contain 50ml of Godet Cognac. Like the books at the beginning of this article they were made in 2003 for the Chinese 'Year of the Sheep.' The blue sold for £63.31 and the gold



for £57.00. Passton also made the blue still in 2003 and filled it with Godet Cognac but this contains 100ml. There were two sold, the 1st for £41.87 and the 2nd for £25.

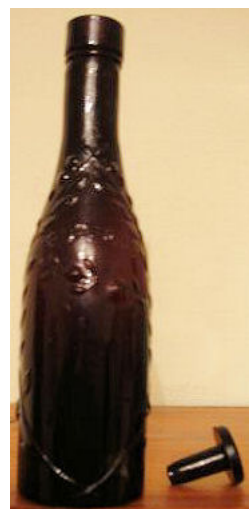


The glass bottle Junk is also from Taiwan and is a made in blue, gold and white, all containing 5cl, 40% vol of Leadership Cognac. All three were for sale. The Blue sold for £9.99, the Gold for £13.50, and the White for £12.00

I will stick with glass for the next few bottles.

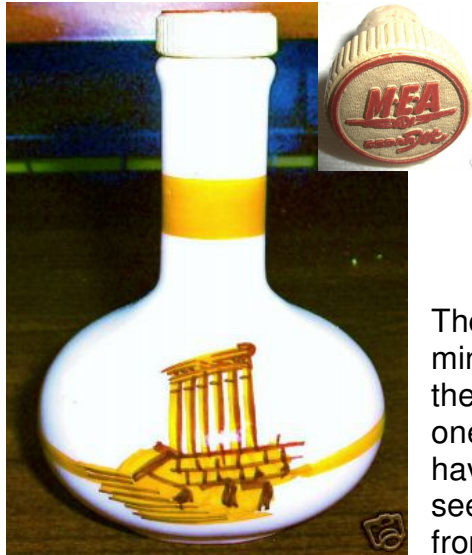


The Scottish Knife, otherwise known as a Dirk or Sgian Dubh, was made by Beneagles and contains Scotch. I bought this, and a number of other bottles, in Sydney in the 1980's. I was on business at the time and had to fly on to Fiji. I therefore left the bottles with a friend and collector who lived in Sydney, Dan Powers. Dan disappeared off the bottle collecting scene and I never did get my bottles back! The bottle is about 190mm (7½") long and was made in 1982. It sold for US\$39.00



The five bottles above are a rag-tag of interesting bottles that I bookmarked to show you over about six months. The first bottle is a Japanese bottling of Mercian Cognac.

This sold for US\$64.05. The Manhattan Lady contains Non-Alcoholic Creme de Violet and dates from the 1930's. Surprisingly she was sold for a mere US\$9.51. Next up is Sazan, 50ml, 25%. This was described as Japanese Spirits and as Whiskey, but I doubt that it is the latter at only 25%. It sold for US\$16.52. There was absolutely no interest in the lovely Pina liqueur bottle. The black glass bottle is about 120mm (4¾") high and was made in the 1890's to contain Rose's lime juice. Note that this bottle still has it's stopper. I saw one of these for sale about 20 years ago in a junk shop, without the stopper, for NZ\$120. This one sold for £42.00



The interesting bottle on the left, with it's stopper inset, is from Middle East Airlines. The stopper also has the name CedarJet on it and the bottom is stamped 'Lebanon Ceramics.' The date is unknown but MEA used this logo from 1959-1974. It is about 100mm (4") tall. It sold for US\$10.49

The double miniature on the right is one that I have never seen before from Suvenir



of Argentina. One side contains Apricot Liqueur and the other Cherry Liqueur. Suvenir make another better known double mini, a pair of binoculars with gin and vodka. This bottle is 95mm (3¾") high and is 127mm (5") wide. It sold for US\$12.06

Every now and again sample minis come up for sale on Ebay. Mainly these are priced so high that nobody buys them. Three of the four minis below are Ski Country samples and the Fireman & Child was a sample for Old Commonwealth. The Snowgoose has a repaired wing but still sold for a US\$99 minimum bid, the Panda & Baby and the Sea Bass sold for a minimum bid of US\$199 each. The Fireman & Child did not sell for a minimum bid price of US\$199.



The Ski Country Dolphins decanter is very unusual, partly because it has a glazed finish and partly because only 300 of these were made, the smallest run that Ski

Country made. It is about 127mm (5") tall and sold for US\$31.88



The top photo on the left is two views of a male Condor and the bottom shows two views of a female Condor. These bottles are from Peru and contain 50ml of Gran Pajaten Pisco at 42°. The male sold for US\$28.88 and the female for US\$48.77



On the left we have one of the rarest Wild Turkey bottles. This is known as the Habitat I -A decanter as was made in 1998. US\$77.50 bought it.

The Geese Family is from Potters of Canada and was made in 1978. It sold for US\$43.50



Sticking with birds, the miniature Okolehao is far rarer than most measures 140mm (5½") tall (not US\$51.00 – a high price I page with two more US pieces. from Manhattan and contains just 76mm (3") high but sold for Drinks Trolley is another includes five different liqueurs, Cordial, Crème De Menthe



Hawaiian Hula Dancer from of the Okolehao bottles. She in real life!) and sold for thought. I will start the next The blown glass Walrus is Peach Cordial. He measures a whopping US\$33.61. The Manhattan piece. The set Crème De Rose, Apricot Cordial, Crème De Cocoa,



and Crème De Violet. The cart has a lock on the top and the original keys are on the side. It dates from the 1940's and sold for US\$33.61. The Deco Lady flask is a Japanese give-away. She is 115mm (4½") tall just US\$20 bought her.



We cross back across the Atlantic for our next bottle, which I would have liked to buy as my partner collects frogs and I like collection 'cross-overs.' However, at US\$68.53, it went for too much. It was made by Droz of France in 1948. The Skier is from next door, England. He was made by McLech and contains Clan Tartan Scotch. He measures 89mm (3.5") high. He sold for US\$28.15 as he is one of the most difficult McLech bottles to obtain.



I have shown you some sample minis above but then more turned up, so I reckon they are worth a look also.

Above we have mock-up McCormick Red and Gold mini Apples (a 500ml version was made commercially). These have tags on showing that they originally sold for US\$300 each. The red sold for US\$41 and the gold for US\$32 – not good investments! The gold mock-up Elvis also sold poorly, US\$82.88.



We continue with McCormick, this time two bottles made in commercial quantities. The Badger Fire Extinguisher is unusual in that, although McCormick made fire extinguishers in 750ml and 200ml sizes, these had a different



brand name on them than the mini. This is not a common mini and, of course, many firemen collect fire related items, hence the US\$47 price it sold for.

The Air Force Eagle was made for "La Société des 20 Hommes et 8 Chevaux." This is correctly called "La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux" in French. It literally translates as "The Society of Forty Men and Eight Horses. The organization can trace its roots back to 1920 when Joseph W. Breen and 15 other members of the American Legion, who were veterans of World War I, came together and founded it as an honour society for certain Legion members.

The title "40&8" comes from the railway wagons that were used to transport troops to the front in France. Each wagon had the emblem 40/8 stenciled on the sides, which meant that it could carry 40 men or 8 horses. These cars were known as forty-and-eights. They were seen by the troops as a miserable way to travel and so the new organization was called the 40&8 in an attempt to make some light of the common misery they had all shared. The bottle sold for US\$36.18.



Sticking with France we have this unusual Hardy bottle which contains 10cl of Junior XO Cognac. It sold for a massive £45



Whilst in Europe I have two Bols bottles to show you. These two ladies are part of a series (or maybe I should say series of series as there are more than one set) and

represent two of the Dutch provinces, Volendam and Freisland. The Volendam sold for £45.75 and the Freisland for £31.30.

Finally we have a camera from Germany. Schnapps-O-Flex was made by Swank, probably in the 1960's. It sold for US\$22.06.



David Smith

DATE, TIME & PLACE

All meetings are subject to change. Please check before travelling. I apologise for most of the dates being one day out (Saturdays instead of Sundays) in the last miNiZ, however I printed the dates that I was given at the AGM!

Sunday 17th August 2008, 12.30pm Pot Luck Lunch at Colin & Dianne Ryder's, 20 Prospect Terrace, Johnsonville Telephone: 04 478 4391 E-Mail: rydercj@xtra.co.nz

Sunday 21th September 2008, 2.00pm Robin & Jess Mellish's, 66 Rudds Road, Christchurch
Telephone: 03 384 9757 E-Mail: jessmell@clear.net.nz

Sunday 19th October 2008, 12.30pm Pot Luck Lunch at Ian Butcher's, 5 Sunburst Court, Paraparaumu Beach
Telephone: 04 904 3157 E-Mail: poppa.chopper@clear.net.nz

Sunday 16th November 2008, 2.00pm Gary Pasfield's, 48 Hakatere Drive, Hakatere Huts, RD7, Ashburton
Telephone: 03 302 3767 E-Mail: none

Sunday 25th January 2009, 12.30pm Barbecue Lunch at David & Rosie's, 11 Trevor Terrace, Paremata
Telephone: 04 233 2997 E-Mail: minidavid@xtra.co.nz

Sunday 25th January 2009, 2.00pm Eric & Cheryl Sutton's, 14C Michigan Place, Westhaven,
Christchurch Telephone: 03 383 9686 E-Mail: cjsutton@slingshot.co.nz

AGM 2009 in Wellington - Weekend of 6th - 8th March 2009

Evening of 6th - Meet, eat and view the extensive collection of micros, ceramics and NZ bottles at David & Rosie's, 11 Trevor Terrace, Paremata. Telephone: 04 233 2997 E-Mail: minidavid@xtra.co.nz

Morning/Afternoon 7th - Visit to Martinborough Fair (the largest country fair in NZ)

Evening 7th - Dinner (venue to be confirmed)

Morning 8th - Tour of some local collections

12.30 8th - Barbecue at Colin & Dianne Ryder's, 20 Prospect Terrace, Johnsonville.

Telephone: 04 478 4391 E-Mail: rydercj@xtra.co.nz

3.00pm 8th - AGM, Election of Officers and planning of the year's meetings

The AGM weekends have been very successful. All are BYO food and drink. A number of Wellington members are happy to provide accommodation for those coming from out of town. Remember to book your flights early to get the best deals. Please E-Mail: minisnz@gmail.com to let us know you are attending.

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COLLECTION FOR SALE

As mentioned earlier on, Marj Lynch's son, Rex is selling her collection on her behalf. Some of the collection is still in Wanganui but Rex is gradually bringing it to Wellington. Rex has done a good job photographing the bottles, in place at Marj's, and at some time the photos will be put on line. In the meantime you can contact Rex on 04 971 2250 or via email: moir@paradise.net.nz

Marj was a general collector so there are minis there for everyone.

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