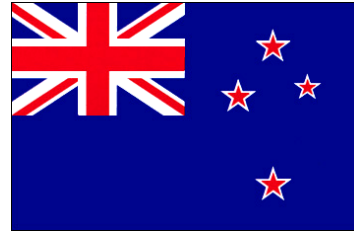


**Issue 84**

**Summer 2009**



# **miNiZ**

**THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW ZEALAND MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB**



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

# **WELSH WHISKY: "A RARE BIT?"**

Although my main area of collecting is scotch whisky, I keep a section in my cabinet for whiskies from around the world (excluding bourbons, although I do collect personalised Jim Beam bottles).

Recently a patient of mine brought me back a Welsh whisky miniature from Wales itself. Being a doctor, you sometimes develop relationships with some patients that go slightly deeper than just the doctor-patient relationship, and if these patients travel overseas, they can be an excellent source of minis.

I noted that I had very few Welsh miniatures (in fact only two), and after doing some research about Welsh whisky, it turned out they didn't contain Welsh whisky at all! In fact, if you tried to buy any genuine Welsh whisky prior to 2000, you would have found it mission impossible because the last distillery had closed at the end of the 1800s.

Like the other Celtic nations, Wales has a long history of spirit distillation. It started as far back in the 4<sup>th</sup> century, with a man known as Reallt Hir, distilling on Bardsey Island off the North Wales coast. The ingredients of this early spirit, known universally as "aquae vitae" or "gwirod" in the Welsh language, was a mix of barley, yeast and honey distilled to make a basic raw spirit.

In more recent times there was a small commercial distillery at Dale in Pembrokeshire, which opened in 1705. The distillery was owned by Evan William's family who later emigrated to the USA and helped found the Kentucky Whiskey Industry. His name is still attached to a number of high quality bourbons to this day. It is rumoured that even the famous Jack Daniels is from Welsh stock.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> Century a whisky distillery operated at Frongoch near Bala in North Wales under the chairmanship of a Mr Robert Willis. In the late 1800s, the "chapel building mania" in Wales with its associated temperance movement, combined with the unfortunate death of Mr Willis under the wheels of a horse and cart, conspired to put an end to legal distillation in Wales for more than 100 years.

In the 1990s, the Brecon Brewery Ltd produced *Swn Y Mor* (or *Sound of the Sea*) which claimed to be a Welsh product containing a Welsh distilled grain spirit, but the source of the spirit was a mystery because at the time there was no distillery in Wales.

The company then went through various changes. Firstly "Brecon Brewery Ltd", then "Welsh Whisky Ltd", and then "Welsh Distillers Ltd". The aim was to distil a single malt whisky on Welsh soil under the label *Prince of Wales*.

However, as with *Swn Y Mor* the product was in fact a blend of Scotch whiskies and not Welsh distilled at all and this led to a prosecution by the

Scotch Whisky Association. On top of this, three of the company's directors were successfully prosecuted for duty fraud of over £250,000.



Dafydd Gittins, a former director of the companies, was also independently caught up in allegations of entanglement in narcotics and jailed at about the same time. However, Gittins had been serious in his intent to establish a true Welsh distillery for the company. He had successfully secured a considerable amount of European Union (EU) aid for the development of a new still for the company with technical help from the University of Surrey.



In 2000, Penderyn Distillery started production of the *Penderyn single malt Welsh Whisky* in Wales using the same EU funded still secured from the collapse of the former company. The first bottles went on sale on 1 March 2004, St David's Day. Called the Gwallia Distillery, it is situated at the village of Penderyn in the Brecon Beacons National Park.

My patient brought me the Danzy Jones miniature pictured above. It contains "Wysgi Licor" and is Wales's only whisky liqueur. It is named after a journeyman stonemason who, in the custom of many Welsh working men in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, added herbs and

rosehip syrup to his whisky, which he drank in the form of a toddy.

*Ken Chin*



# TOP END TEQUILAS



I haven't seen any Tequila minis featured here for a long time, so I thought I would show you some of the "Top End" Tequilas. My guess is that very few people have seen these. They all are definitely very hard to find!

First is a set of *Hacienda De La Flor* tequilas. These are tall slender minis, with metal labels & cork tops. Even though the labels all look the

same, the first is Anejo, the second is Reposado, & the third is Blanco.



Next is *Real De Penjamo* Tequila. These minis have a metal foil label, and are encased in wooden yokes. They are in order by Anejo, Reposado, & Blanco. I have seen some of these minis without the wooden yokes.



To the left is one of my top two tequila sets. This colorful set is *Reserva De Mexico* Tequila. The first is Anejo, the blue mini is Reposado, and the last one is Blanco. I absolutely love the shape and color of these minis.

Finally we come to one of the newest tequila sets I have. They are *Angel Bendito* Tequila. This set is the other of my top two favorite tequilas. The mini bottles actually slant forward, from bottom to top, and with the gold metal halos on the round glass tops, they actually do look like little angles.

All of these minis are hand made, and as I mentioned earlier, all are quite hard to find.



Jim Crawford



# ***RARE CENTRAL AMERICANS***

We tend to associate Mexico and the Caribbean with Tequilas, Rum, Curacao and cheap micros but in the 1930's to the 1960's they made some great ceramic and molded glass bottles. I have a few of these to show you today. I'm sure that you will agree that for such unusual and old bottles the bid prices were very disappointing.



Anglo Swiss are from the 1960's and are probably the best known of the Mexican ceramic bottles. Shown are a Dancing Black Lady or possibly a Jazz Singer. She measures 140mm (5.5") high. At US\$20.61 she failed to meet the reserve on Ebay. The boxer is the same height and he also failed to meet the reserve with a bid of US\$12.49



The Dutch Boy is a little taller at 150mm (6") but he also failed to meet the reserve with a bid of only US\$14.39. The Sailor Boy is one of several that I found on the web. The Pig is only 125mm (5") high and he failed the worst of the lot with an, unacceptable, bid of only US\$6.99. Next we have two ladies, two girls and Santa Claus, all of which came from searching the internet so I cannot tell you how tall they are.





The four Francesa Mexican molded glass bottles are from the 1930's. The seller of three of them had an asking price (Buy it Now) of US\$50 each but got no bids despite being re-listed several times. I can't tell you how tall these are as the seller did not say. We have a Sailor Boy, a Girl and what was said to be a Dog but looks to me more like a Pig (compare it with the Anglo Swiss Pig above). I found the girl with the green background elsewhere but she is just a label and contents variation from the other girl.

The ladies below are from V.M. Ramirez and were made in Puerto Rico in 1942. The exact bottles are listed in Bob Snyder's *Bottles in Miniature Vol. III*. They are 4 of a set of at least seven. The yellow lady sold for US\$22.38. I would have expected more and so evidently did the seller as the other three were listed as 'Buy it Now' at US\$55 each. Unfortunately they did not sell. Note that Bob listed these as being worth US\$20 each in 1972 – it just goes to illustrate how the hobby is going backwards!







The next bottle looks like it should be part of the Anglo Swiss set but was made by Papillon of Mexico. It represents a Groom. I presume there was also a Bride and maybe more figures in this set. He stands 150mm (6") high and sold for US\$9.49. There are at least three variations of this bottle – look at the shoes.

Great bottles, but why do they not sell for more?

I will do my best to bring you some more older bottle sets in future miNiZ.

*David Smith*



*From New Scientist*

**QUESTION:** It is accepted among Australian beer drinkers that a glass of cold draught lager holds it's head for longer if the beer is pulled in two or three separate pours, rather than one continuous pour. What causes this effect and does it also apply to beers served at room temperature?

**ANSWER:** If you pour the beer in one pull, the foam grows under uniform conditions, producing relatively few bubbles and mostly larger ones. Large bubbles pop quickly, so the head doesn't last. By pausing during pulling, one gives the first bubbles time to grow larger and more flexible before the turbulence of the next pull shears some of them into more numerous, smaller bubbles.

Furthermore, the concentration of carbon dioxide in the poured beer surrounding a large bubble has had a chance to drop, so that the bubbles stop growing so rapidly. The effect of the extra pulls is to reduce the size of the bubbles and increase their number. This means a smoother, finer, firmer froth. As smaller bubbles do not pop as easily as large ones, the finer froth lasts longer too.

Qualitatively, warmer beer behaves in much the same way, but it froths too violently and briefly, which masks the effect. Bubbles in warmer beer are larger and more fragile anyway, so the overall improvement is less worthwhile.

# ***SOUVENIR SETS OF BULGARIAN MINIATURES***

The **Alvina Vinprom OOD** (Limited Ability Company) in Dobrich is the second largest distillery and liqueur factory in Bulgaria. It mainly produces *rakias*, Bulgarian traditional fruit spirits, as well as grape wine based aperitifs. Bulgaria is a small country in the Balkan region in the South-East of Europe.



Last year this firm issued a souvenir package of its miniature bottles to the Bulgarian market. The blue soft carton boxes have an oval display on the front and some pictures of Bulgarian sights like the Nevsky cathedral in Sofia, the victory monument on the Shipka peak and the monastery in the Rila mountains on the back.

The boxes contained five round glass 50 ml bottles with three

rakias and two aperitifs, *Dobrudjanska Muscat Brandy 40%*, *Dobrudjanska Quince Brandy 40%*, *Tarvelska Apricot Brandy 40%*, *Saviniya Almond Aperitif 20%* and *Saviniya Roza Aperitif 20%* as well as one square glass 50 ml bottle with *Dobrich High Quality Vodka 40%*.

This year the same boxes are sold with new contents. They are six square glass 50 ml bottles with a series of aperitifs entitled *Aperitif Siluet*, all at 20% by vol. The single brands are *Almond*, *Blue Tropics*, *Chocolate*, *Peach*, *Roza* and *Triple Sec*.

All bottles in the old as well as in the new package versions are stopped with plastic screw caps in white or red.



*Ivan Uhlík*



# AS SEEN ON EBAY #20



We will start with a very unusual bottle, the Mendis Sepcial Ceylon Arrack. This is 100mm (4") tall and had a reserve of US\$8. Unfortunately it got no bids.

Sticking with Asia, and bottles that did not sell, we have the little ceramic elephant miniature. It is 100 x 50mm (4" x 2") but unfortunately, if it did have a label it is not mentioned.



Bal Tabarin bottles were made in occupied Japan and are usually highly regarded. However, although the three that were on sale all sold, none went very high.



The saxophone player and the flautist each sold for a minimum bid of US\$12. The happy cow did a bit better at US\$20.50

Next we have two give-away bottles, the first German and the second Japanese. It's surprising that the policeman on the left was let into the police with his obvious disability! He is 190mm (7.5") tall to the tip of his fingers. Bidding was brisk and he





eventually sold for US\$103.49. The Japanese give-away is the girl in a bathing suit with the life preserver. It measures 120 x 89mm (4.75" x 3.5") and has its original stopper. US\$23.19 bought it. The German give-aways are highly regarded but the Japanese are less so, which is a shame as they are very colourful and equally as rare.

The lady on the right may be a give-away but I cannot say for sure and neither could the seller. He didn't give any more information on the bottle either. Surprisingly she did not sell.



Next we have a couple of Elvis bottles that I was no able to show you in my article "Elvis is alive and well" in miNiZ 64. When writing that article I had to cheat and show you the large Elvis Teddy Bear as I could not find a photo of the mini version. Teddy Bear sold for US\$229

I did not even list Elvis Christmas in the previous article as I found no reference to this. The music box plays "White Christmas" – what else! To say the least bidding was brisk with the bottle eventually selling for US\$369.99

Sticking with entertainers we have two J.R. Ewing (Larry Hagman), of Dallas fame, McCormick decanters. The gold one is a very rare sample bottle. There is no music box in it since its a sample. The original asking price was US\$399 but there were no bidders. It has been re-listed probably a dozen times by now and currently has a 'Buy Now' price of US\$199. Also this company is still trying to sell the standard J. R. Ewing bottle. They were asking US\$200 but this has gradually come down and the asking price is now US\$79.99 but there are still no buyers.







In the last "As Seen on Ebay" in miNiZ82 I showed you the dagger made by Beneagles. This one is one I have not seen before and obviously neither had many other collectors as it sold for €25.50. It is from Glen Fiona.



The two submarines on the left are from Peru. They were made by Abolengo and contain 50ml of pisco. There are 6 submarines in the set (see below) but only two basic shapes with the only difference between some of them being the number on the conning tower. The pair sold for US\$103.60.

The next bottles look like they could be Delft but actually come from Focaccio of Italy. Again they are two from a set of 6 bottles. They fetched a rather poor US\$11.50 for the pair.



Above is an Old Store clown. As with all Old Store bottles it contains Scotch. It is a mere 35mm (1 $\frac{3}{8}$ ") high and is part of a large set of small funny bottles from Old Store. I have shown you "Happy Puppy" previously in miNiZ and will show you more of these bottles when they come up for sale. US\$8.51 bought him.



The very unusual heart was made in Hong Kong but the maker is unknown. It sold for €7.50

*David Smith*

# MORE CUTE NICCOLO BOTTLES

Firstly an apology. The Yogi Bear and Flintstone sets shown in the last miNiZ are from Linfa Salus, not Niccolo as I was misinformed.

I have not been able to find out how many minis or sets of minis Niccolo made but my guess is it is hundreds of individual pieces. There are 26 here, I have shown you at least 40 previously in miNiZ, there are two more articles already written with another 12 shown, I have a set of a dozen in my own collection and know of another 60 or so that I will eventually get around to writing more articles on. See also MBC #39 & 40, Vol.VII No.3 & 4 from 1980 (on our web site). I do know that the bottles were made in Taiwan and filled in Italy. I will largely let these speak for themselves.



I believe that the only one that has appeared in miNiZ previously is the Lion (second left, top row). Unfortunately the writing on the bottles is difficult to read but I can easily as I have a larger photo – so here goes....

The pelican? top right says “Guess What!!” The rabbit below it says “One and One Make Two?!!” (rabbits have never heard of birth control) and at the far end of this shelf the mouse says “You Just Love Me ‘Cause I’m Pretty.” The bottom shelf minis read (left to right) bear?: “I Dream of You Constantly,” turtle: “You Bring Me Out of My Shell,” puppy: “I Need Someone To Love Me,” bird: “Am I Your Tweetheart,” cat: “You Are The Cat’s Meow,” lion?: “I Love You Pussy Cat,” elephant: “I’ll Always Remember,” cat: “You Bring Out The Tiger In Me,” and chick: “Happy Birthday.”

*David Smith*



# BALLS TO YOU

In miNiZ 71 I brought you soccer club Manchester United. This time we have their balls! Together with rugby, grid iron, tennis, cricket and baseballs. I found so many golf balls that I have saved them for a future article.



Incidentally there is one more member of the Manchester United set, Sir Alex Fergusson. The set came in the display box shown on the left.

We will start with soccer balls from Old St. Andrews done for three world cups. These are all basically the same. All are a glass bottle, encased in a plastic ball, then put upside down on a stand. Three balls were issued in 1994 and a further three in 1998. In case you are wondering, no I do not have the 1998 black ball the wrong way around. This was not printed with the Old St. Andrews name. The 1998 set must not have sold too well as the 2002 set is the same set with a sticker over France '98 for the Korean/Japanese tournament.



Old St. Andrews also issued three non-world cup balls on stands and at least one, although I suspect three, balls in boxes – I could only find the red one shown. Next we have a ball from Findlater's made for the 1990 world cup that looks just like the St. Andrews balls. This definitely only came in black. The next ball is milk glass from Germany. I don't know who made it but it does say 'Cup 70' on it. The final two above are



from Spain, the first having been made for the world cup in 1974.

On the left we have a bottle made in Argentina for the 1978 world cup followed by the three bottles below made for the 1982 cup.



World Cup ENGLAND Spain 1982 was made by Beneagles and contains 50ml of 40% Scotch. It sold for £9.60 on Ebay. The balls for SCOTLAND and NORTHERN IRELAND are from the Fretwell's collection.

On the left is undoubtedly the best soccer ball ever made. I have shown both sides for you. This was made in France by Chabanneau for the 1990 world cup in Italy.

Next we have four balls made for teams playing in the Scottish League. The first two are from my own collection and are for the two Glasgow arch rivals, Rangers and Celtic. H.M.F.C. stands for Hearts Midlothian Football Club and I would assume that this was founded in 1874. It sold for £10.53 on Ebay. Aberdeen F.C. sold for £6.50. All contain 50ml of 40% Scotch.



Next we have 25 bottles made in Spain for various soccer teams. These are mainly Spanish but there are also teams from Germany, Holland and England. They were made by two different companies, Campeny and Rogine. The wider stands are all from Campeny but the narrow stands were made for both companies, making it impossible to tell which company the bottle came from if the label is missing! I will let the bottles speak





A collection of 20 vintage soccer balls, each featuring a different club crest and mounted on a decorative stand. The clubs represented are Real Madrid, R. Sociedad, Athletic Club Bilbao, FC Barcelona, Borussia Dortmund, Bayern München, Elche, Club Deportivo Espanyol, Feyenoord, Leeds United, A.T. Madrid, R. Madrid, R.C.D. Mallorca, Sevilla F.C., and A.D. Rayo Vallecano. The stands are often inscribed with 'BRANDY' and 'RESERVA'.

We start the next page with three English ceramic soccer balls. The first is a Clan Tartan



from McLech, followed by two colour variations of British Cream Sherry, also from McLech. The final bottle is from WLS.



The trophy bottle with the soccer ball on top is also from McLech and in this case contains Bullfighter Spanish Sherry. McLech have also made two different sizes of a bottle depicting the world cup trophy.



On the left we have a bottle brought back from China last year by Ken Chin. It was made by Sam Seng of Hong Kong and contains Chinese wine.



Next we have some glass soccer ball minis. The glass soccer ball on the right is filled with vodka and made for Marks & Spencer. Underneath it is a bottle from Eckes of Germany.



On the far left is a bottle of Stylish Scotch on it's own little patch of turf. Finally for soccer we have Suntory whiskey.



We start our list of rugby balls with one from Suntory. This glass ball contains VSOP brandy.



Rugby encompasses a number of related games. Above we have a Manhattan American Football (grid iron) ball containing California wine. Next is a rugby ball from Argentina containing Forcoll whisky and then another grid iron ball with Ohio Port Wine from Meier's. We start the next page with two more Meier's balls, the first a label variation of the Ohio Port and then an Ohio Sherry. Next along is another sherry ball, this time from Gallo, followed by a Lushus California Cornini (presumably another wine).





To the left is an English rugby ball from McLech. This contains Real West Country Cream British Sherry. The funny Punt bottle below is from Trojan of the USA. It contains wine with peppermint (yuk!). The Lem & Co. Armagnac bottle was made for the "coupe de Monde de Rugby". This is the Rugby World Cup in French. I



presume that this bottle was made in 2008 when the cup was held in France.

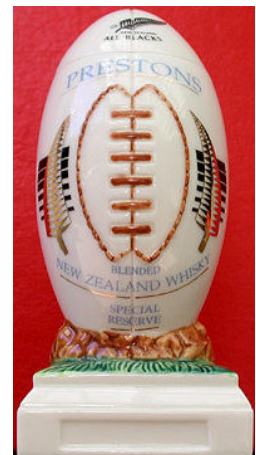
Last, but certainly not least, is the Preston's rugby ball. I have shown you this before, in fact it was our cover bottle for miNiZ61. It is an NZ made sample bottle that was never put into production, although the larger bottles were.



Missing from this article are the three Swyn-y-Mor Welsh whisky rugby balls, two 'ordinary' ones and one made for the World Cup in 1991.

I could only find one cricket ball, the one on the left. It was probably

made by McLech as the two ball bottles it is displayed were both made by that company.



The first of our tennis balls is from August Kell of Germany. It contains 100ml of Lacrima Christi. The next four bottles are all from Advantage and contain 5cl of Scotch. The first one, on the red base, is by far the hardest to find. We start the next page with two ceramic tennis balls. The first is from McLech and contains Bullfighter Sherry, the second contains Demen Sherry but I do not know who made it.



I expected more than two baseball bottles but the two above are all that I could find. Meirs of Ohio made the first of these. The second was made by Manhattan and contains California Sherry Wine, it sold on Ebay for US\$23.50.

Apart from golf balls (promised for a later article) that's the lot.

*David Smith*

## AGM WEEKEND

### Weekend of 6th - 8th March 2009

**Evening of 6th** - Meet, eat (barbecue) and view the extensive collection of micros, ceramics and NZ bottles at David & Rosie's, 11 Trevor Terrace, Paremata.

Telephone: 04 233 2997 Email: [minidavid@xtra.co.nz](mailto:minidavid@xtra.co.nz)

**Morning/Afternoon 7th** - Visit to Martinborough Fair (the largest country fair in NZ). You probably won't find any bottles but you will have a good day.

**Evening 7th** - Dinner at Ken & Marlee Chin's, 29 Norton Park Road, Fairfield, Lower Hutt. Ken has an extensive collection of Scotch and personalised Jim Beam bottles.

Telephone: 04 938 1488 Email: [kenchin@ihug.co.nz](mailto:kenchin@ihug.co.nz)

**Morning 8th** - Visit to Kapiti to view the collections of Ian Butcher (mainly ceramics) and Gary Carvey (Scotch).

Ian: 5 Sunburst Court, Paraparaumu Telephone: 04 904 3157

Gary: 9 Manley Gardens, Paraparaumu Telephone: 04 905 9295

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

Telephone: 04 478 4391 Email: [rydercj@xtra.co.nz](mailto: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 (apart from Saturday night). 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 Email: [minisnz@gmail.com](mailto:minisnz@gmail.com) to let us know you are attending. There is no formal swap meet this time but bring your swaps as swapping goes on at every house over the weekend.

There are no new New Zealand minis to show you this time so I thought that I would show you two unusual jugs being sold by Rex Moir (04 971 2250 or [moir@paradise.net.nz](mailto:moir@paradise.net.nz)) on behalf of his late mum, Marj Lynch. These and hundreds of other minis for sale and can be viewed at: <http://community.webshots.com/user/RexMoir>