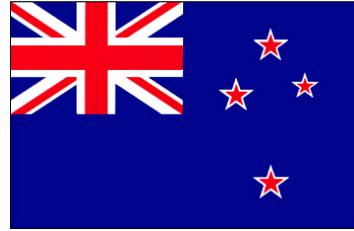


Issue 86

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miNiZ

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW ZEALAND MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



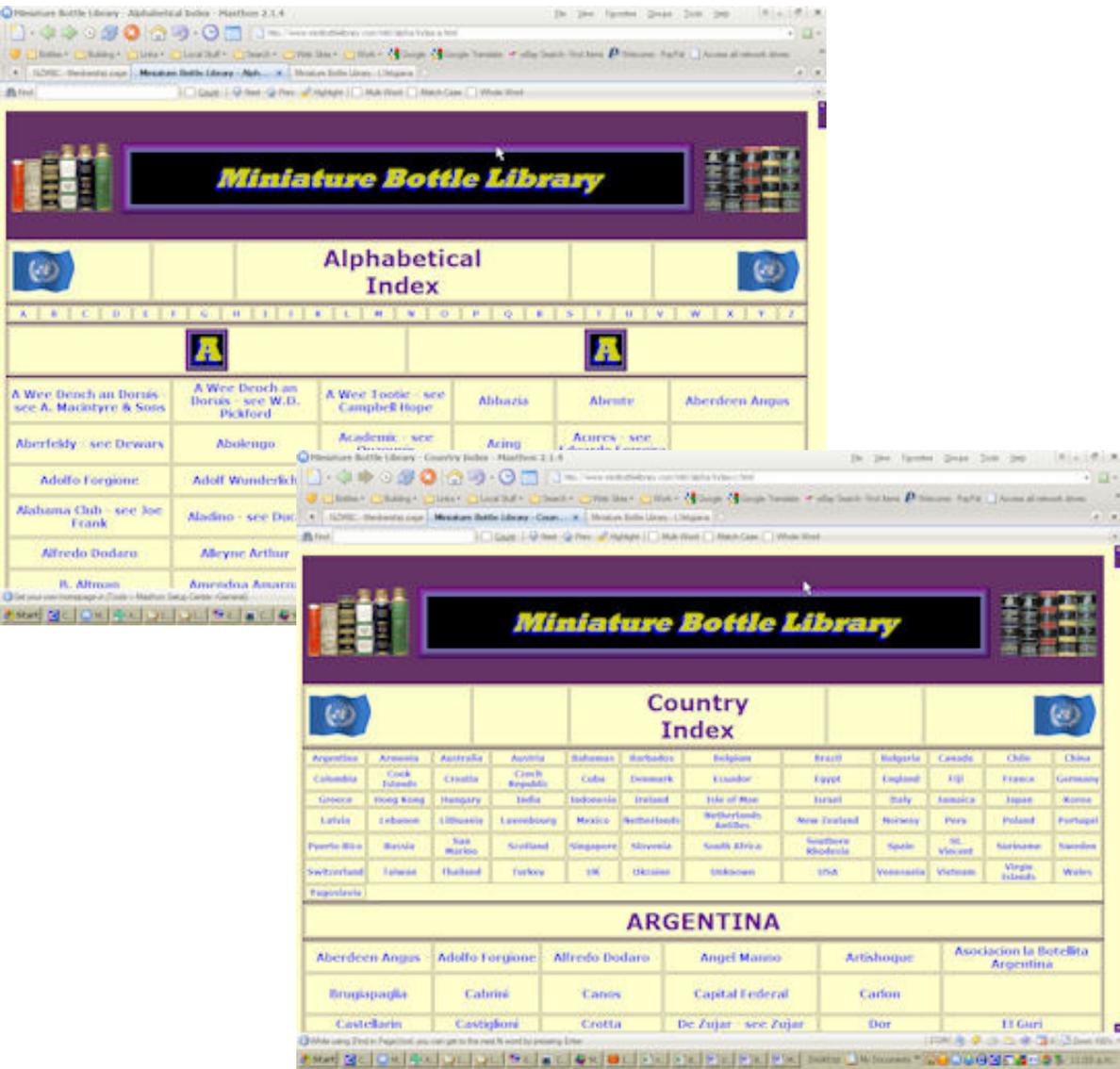
Australasia's only Miniature Bottle Club - www.minisnz.com

Miniature Bottle Library

<http://www.minibottlelibrary.com>

Miniature Bottle Library is designed to be a co-operative effort between like minded miniature bottle collectors. It aims to, eventually, catalogue miniature drink bottles of all types and categories. Initially it is only showing figurals (in their widest sense) but it is hoped to eventually extend this to all other classes of minis.

Miniature Bottle Collector Magazine and most miniature bottle books are now out of print, although, even collectively, they were never a comprehensive reference. There are many good sites on the web and MBL is not designed to replace them. Most sites are run by single collectors and as they lose interest or pass away a wealth of knowledge gets lost when their site closes. Miniature Bottle Library is an attempt to stem at least some of that loss and provide a platform for the ongoing listing of bottles both old and new. The site aims to become the definitive pictorial reference site for miniature bottles.



The site can be searched either by company name, and there are lots of cross references to help with this, or by country. A country flag is shown against every company name. The above screen shots show the two primary navigation screens. Below is the start of the listing for a manufacturer, in this case U. D. Pendowa from Indonesia. There are over 1500 manufacturers currently listed and some of these manufacturer listings run to hundreds of bottles. Where we know of another web site that significantly extends the knowledge about a particular manufacturer (history, large high quality photos etc.) there is a link to that site. This area will be developed much further in the future.



All photos are a maximum of 360x360mm, although many, initially at least, are smaller as these are the only photos so far found. Photos are close cropped to get the maximum size for the bottle itself. As well as size differences, some photos are better quality than others and some are even black and white scans. The site works on the premise that any photo is better than none. The site is being constantly updated by replacing photos with better ones and adding new bottles, variations and manufacturers. Approximately 11,500 bottles are currently shown.

Photos of figural bottles not shown on the site (or better photos of those that are) are actively sought. They can be emailed to minibottlelibrary@gmail.com – just make sure you let them know what the bottle is if it is not obvious from the label, or if the label is not shown on the photo. Remember, any photo is better than none and the webmaster will crop, resize, lighten or otherwise improve them if necessary. Enjoy.

David Smith



75 years ago (in 1934) the **CENTURY OF PROGRESS** World's Fair & International Exposition was held in Chicago, Illinois. The Century of Progress International Exposition, as it was officially known, set several records. Attendance was over 39 million, which was almost double the previous high for this event.

One of the many Exhibitors was the Hiram Walker Distillery. They actually set up 3 miniature bottling lines that produced special bottles of Whisky, Scotch, and Gin. These mini souvenir bottles were then given to the people who visited the Hiram Walker Exhibit. Each especially embossed bottle came in it's own box with an enclosed informational pamphlet similar to the one pictured below.



Each of the bottles has "CENTURY OF PROGRESS" embossed in the glass. The labels also indicate it was Bottled at the Century of Progress 1934. While it is not that difficult to find one of these bottles today, it is very rare to find all 3 that have pristine labels, and are still sealed. Now add in the original boxes, along with the original pamphlets, and you have 3 extremely desirable and hard to find mini bottles.

The first mini is Hiram Walker's London Dry Gin. The box has a colorful back with the 1934 Century of Progress logo on the front, trimmed in silver. The second mini is Canadian Club Straight Whisky. Like the gin, the box has a colorful back with the 1934 Century of Progress logo on the front, but trimmed in gold. Finally the last bottle is

GAOLIANG SORGHUM LIQUOR FROM TAIWAN

Gaoliang Jiu (literally "sorghum liquor"; often called simply *Gaoliang*) is a strong distilled liquor made from fermented sorghum (which is called *Gaoliang* in Chinese). It is made and sold in both mainland China and Taiwan, and is also popular in Korea where it is called *Goryangju*. *Gaoliang Jiu* is an important product of the islands Kinmen and Matsu which are under the jurisdiction of the Republic of China. *Gaoliang Jiu* ranges between 38 and 63 percent alcohol by volume.



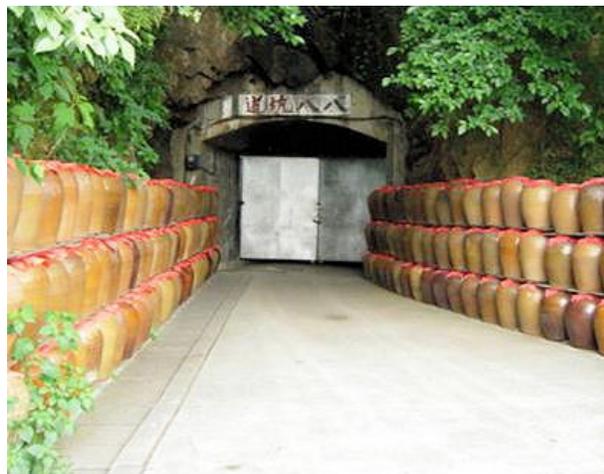
The Matsu Distillery and Tunnel 88

It is only natural that people should compare the *gaoliangs* made in Matsu and Kinmen. Although *Gaoliang Jiu* from Matsu and Kinmen are made using the same type of distilling process, the yeast is not the same. The most important *Gaoliang Jiu* producer in the island of Matsu is The Matsu Distillery Ltd.



People could smell the *Matsu Old Wine* from far when driving near the Matsu Distillery. It was established in 1956 and moved to its present location in 1970. The island's sweet-water springs and clean air are said to be the major reasons for its ability to create such a fine sorghum wine.

This distillery is also quick to point out that its product is aged longer, and that it has a smoother taste, so that people can down a small cup in one shot. Matsu *Gaoliangs* are twice distilled and twice fermented before being placed in the famous 'Tunnel 88' to age. This tunnel is a 264-meter bunker originally used by a tank company. In 1988 the Kuomintang Army was turned it over to the distillery for storage. Tunnel 88 has changed from its military role to liquor





storage. Now the name “Tunnel 88” is a famous brand that is popular not only in Taiwan. The temperature inside the tunnel stays around 17-20 degrees Celsius. To keep the temperature and moisture constant, the heavy doors are only opened to visitors who book in advance.

The GaoliangJiu Miniatures

All Chengao (fresh distilled Gaoliang) is kept in the tunnel for at least five years before it goes in different shaped bottles and ceramics decanters on the market. Some Gaoliang kinds like “Mild Gaoliang 38%”, “Premium Gaoliang 42%” or “Premium Gaoliang 50%” are bottled into miniatures, square clear glass bottles with a capacity of 50 ML.

Ivan Uhlík

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JOHNNIE WALKER 1820



Ken Chin bought this bottle recently in Australia – he is not saying for how much! It was obviously packaged for the Japanese market and is probably now the rarest of the modern Johnnie Walker minis.

MORE FROM PERU

It's amazing just how many great bottles continue to come from Peru. Peru has now become what Italy was to bottle collecting in the 1960's and 70's.

Firstly, three more houses, numbers 25-27. Like the others these are from Sotelo and contain Pisco, Peru's national drink. So do the next two buildings.



On the far left we have the church of San Marcello. The building next to it is actually three bottles. It is the Palacio Torre Tagle. All 5 (7?) bottles are great additions to any building bottle collection.

The next two are truly great bottles. These bottles represent the liners, Titanic and Andrea Doria. When I was first offered these I was suspicious that they may have been too large for minis but that is not the case, they are beautifully proportioned. Both contain Royal Highness Scotch.



It will be interesting to see what is next out of Peru.

David Smith

EDUARDO FERREIRA

Not a lot of bottles come from Portugal, and even fewer figurals. Undoubtedly the best are also ones being currently sold by Eduardo Ferreira. These bottles often also have a label on them saying Açores, which is Azores in Portuguese, as that is where these bottles are from. I will let them speak for themselves.



We have shown two other bottles, an aluminium cream can and jug in an 'As Seen on Ebay' article in a previous miNiZ.

David Spaid & David Smith

AMERICAN WHISKEY FLASKS

Generally speaking bottles are not selling very well on Ebay at the moment but good bottles will still sell – read on.



We start with 6 'old' bottles. The first Old Quaker Straight Bourbon Whiskey is 3 years old. It has a 1937 State of Illinois Excise Tax Stamp on the back. The second Old Quaker is also a 1930's bottle. Both bottles measure about 95mm (3³/₄" tall. The first sold for US\$8.99 and the second for US\$16.40. Old Log Cabin and Old Wilderness are both also 1930's bottles. The first sold for US\$15.50 and the second for only 2¢ less.

Moving to the second row, Old Overholt Straight Rye Whiskey measures just over 102mm (4") tall. US\$16.06 bought it. Old Mr Boston Rocking Chair Whiskey is an 80 year old bottle as it was sold in 1939. It's a pity that such a nice old bottle sold for only US\$5.50. The Brigadier Whiskey is another 1930's bottle. It did a little better at US\$13.02. Finally we have a 1936 Virginia Gentleman bottle. It sold for the highest price in this first bunch, US\$52

The second eight are a somewhat more random bunch but I will start with a couple that sold particularly well.



The first time Major Paul's was put up for sale it failed to get a minimum bid of US\$2.99. I suspect that the seller was none too pleased. He put the bottle back on sale and, I suspect, nobody was more surprised than him when it sold for US\$224.50! I can't tell you anything about the next bottle, Golden Ribbon Bourbon, except that it sold for US\$178.50. Next up is Rittenhouse Rye Whiskey in the diamond cut bottle from about 1940. This is the last of our \$100+ bottles at US\$102.50. The Crystal Bay Club bottle was bottled by Medley Distillers especially for The Crystal Bay Club of Lake Tahoe, Nevada. It is a 7 year old straight Bourbon Whiskey and is in excellent condition. A snip at US\$48.50

Now to the other end of the scale. The next four flasks went for minimum bids. Bottoms Up went for only US\$0.99, a real shame for a 1936 bottle. Hiram Walker Double V also sold for US\$0.99. The 1939 Redwood Rye Maryland Whiskey was originally sold exactly 70 years ago, US\$2.00 bought it this time around. Waterfill and Frazier 6 year old is also a 1930's bottle, US\$2.99 minimum bid this time.

Mount Vernon Rye Whiskey measures just over (102mm (4") tall – two bids and US\$5.16 was all it took to buy it. Wolf Creek Rye Whiskey is from the 1930's and has a great label but greatness is not always expensive. A minimum bid of US\$5.49 bought it.

Old American Rye Whiskey was born the same year I was, 1951. Hopefully I am worth more than US\$13. Finally on this row we have Large Monongahela Rye Whiskey, which again is a 1930's bottle. There were several bids this time but it still sold for only US\$16.48

We start the next row with a 1930's Brown Forman 1870 Whiskey. This sold for a somewhat better US\$33. Next is Broad Ripple, which has a most unusual label. This was distilled by The Frankfort Distillery of Louisville Kentucky and bears an Illinois tax stamp from 1934. This bottle measures close to 105mm (4½") in height. US\$32.76 seemed reasonable. Seagrams is one of the best known liquor names. This 1934 5 year old Bourbon Whiskey sold for US\$48. Finally we have Shipping Port Straight Bourbon, 1/10th Pint, 102mm (4") tall, which sold for US\$42.00



That's it for now. I will bring you some more great US bottles in either the next miNiZ or the one after, depending on space.

David Smith

ITALIAN FLOWER GIRLS

These delightful minis are from Niccolo and contain grappa. They are small for ceramic miniatures at only about 75mm (3") high.



I can't tell you any more about these except that I think that they date from the 1980's. They sold on Ebay for between US\$36.99 and \$47.56 each. One person got five of them and another one – a real shame to break up the set.

David Smith

BEAUTIFUL MINIATURE BOTTLES FROM HUNGARY

Békési Pálinka RT. – Fruit brandies from a steam locomotive

The company **Békési Pálinka RT.** (Békés Fruit Distillates Ltd.) has its domicile in the town Békés in the region with the same name in the South-East of Hungary. It was founded after a modernizing of an old local fruit distillery in 1984. The symbol of the company is an old disabled steam locomotive, bought 1988 from the Hungarian State Railway. After necessary repairs it was used as a steam engine for the distillery. It worked hard for ten years. Then it was carefully reconstructed and today it is used together with two wagons, a personal car and a lorry, as the Firm's Museum and the Tasting Saloon.



The company produces more than forty traditional fruit distillates of the Békés region. They offer their spirits in six product groups: *Békési Szilvapálinkák* (Békés original plum brandies), *Békési Örömpálinkák* (Békés original fruit brandies "Pleasure"), *Öreg Ágyaspálinkák* (fruit brandies in fruit bed), *Disznótoros Pálinkák* (hog-killing fruit brandies), *Prémiumi Pálinkák* (premium fruit brandies) and *Mézes Pálinka Likőrök* (honey brandy & fruit liqueurs).



Békési Örömpálinkák

A specialty of the company caused in an old use of the region. Originally the parents distilled a fruit spirit

Békési Szilvapálinkák

They are traditional plum brandies produced after old formulas of the Békés region, available with different alcohol volume between 40 and 60 percents and in different bottle sizes. No miniature bottles.



(mainly a plum pálinka) before their child was born, keeping it in a demijohn in the cellar all the years. They opened it later just at a family feast (marriage etc.) Now the company distills this special brandy itself and bottles it in five liter decanters with personal labels. It is available with 40% alc. in the sorts *Barack* (apricot), *Körte* (pear) and *Szilva* (plum).



Öreg Ágyaspálinkák

A further regional specialty of the company. A bed of macerated fruits will be prepared at the bottom of a special bottle with a wide mouth and a handle on the neck. Then the bottle will be filled up with a brandy of the same fruit sort. These drinks, all at 40% alc. by vol., are available in the sorts *Barack* (apricot), *Cseresznye* (cherry), *Meggy* (sour cherry), *Szilva* (plum), *Vegyes* (mixed fruits) and *Vilmoskörte* (William's pear). No miniature bottles.

Disznótoros Pálinkák

Another company's specialty, very popular mainly in the Békés region. These strong fruit brandies with 50% alc. by vol. are traditionally used as drinks accompanied the fet foods at the hog-killing time (the Hungarian word *disznótoros*

means hog-killing meal in English). They are available in the sorts *Barack* (apricot), *Körte* (pear), *Szilva* (plum), *Törköly* (pomace) and *Vegyes* (mixed fruits). Each sort is also bottled in miniatures, clear glass rectangularly shaped bottles with a capacity of 40 ML.

Prémium Pálinkák

The most important product group of the company Békési Pálinka Ltd. are the premium brandies. They are one-sort distillates, matured for a long time before bottling. The complete series consists of four segments: *almatermésű gyümölcsök* (kernel fruit brandies), *csonthéjas gyümölcsök* (stoney fruit brandies), *bogyós gyümölcsök* (berry brandies) and *vadontermő gyümölcsök* (wild berry brandies). They all are available with alcohol contents of 40% by vol. All sorts are bottled also in miniatures, clear glass, round tall bottles with a capacity of 40 ML.

Almatermésű Gyümölcsök

These kernel fruit brandies are available in the sorts: *Birs* (quince), *Delicious Alma* (Delicious apple), *Jonathan Alma* (Jonathan apple), *Rubinet Alma* (Rubinette apple) and *Vilmoskörte* (William's pear).

Csonthéjas Gyümölcsök

These stoney fruit brandies are available in the sorts: *Besztercei Szilva* (Beszterce plum), *Cigánymeggy* (black cherry), *Cseresznye* (red cherry), *Kajsziarack* (apricot), *Mirabella* (mirabelle plum), *Őszibarack* (peach), *Rózsabarack* (rose peach), *Vilmoskörte* (William's pear) and *Vörösszilva* (red plum).





Bogyós Gyümölcsök

These berry brandies are available in the sorts: *Eper* (mulberry), *Kőszméte* (gooseberry), *Málna* (raspberry), *Ribiszke* (red currant), *Szamóca* (strawberry) and *Szeder* (blackberry).

Vadontermő Gyümölcsök

These wild berry brandies are available in the sorts: *Bodza* (elderberry), *Gesztenye* (sweet chestnut), *Ködivinka* (rowanberry), *Kökény* (sloe) and *Som* (cornel).

Mézes Pálinka Likörök

On the basis of matured honey distillates and natural fruit juices the company Békési Pálinka Ltd. produces a range of liqueurs with 35% alcohol by vol. The honey & fruit liqueurs are available in the following sorts: *Barack* (apricot), *Meggye* (black cherry), *Körte* (pear) and *Szilva* (plum). They are also available in miniatures, dark brown glass, round tall shaped bottles with a capacity of 40 ML.



Firm's souvenirs

The miniature bottles are also available in nice gift boxes. Some brandies like *Barack Pálinka*, *Meggye Pálinka* or *Szilva Pálinka* are bottled as souvenirs also in miniature metallic flasks with a capacity of 30 ML. The visitors of the company Békési Pálinka Ltd. can buy all them in the shop opposite to the museum train in the firm's park.



Pictures courtesy of Békési Pálinka RT.

Ivan Uhlík

ARMENIAN COGNAC (DON'T TELL THE FRENCH!)



I found these three Armenian 'Cognacs' on Ebay and can't tell you much more as the writing is in Cyrillic script. They had opening bids of US\$9.99 but did not sell.

Cognac is a registered name and no company outside that area of France can legally use it.

TERRIFIC TEQUILA

The pictures of these nine tequilas were sent to us by David Spaid. They are not even sold in the US so I guess a trip to Mexico is needed if you want these – free swine ‘flu with every bottle!



Great bottles eh!

David has promised us more of the same, well, not quite the same, in future.

BALLS TO YOU #3

Well, here we go again. I started off wanting to write one article and this is the third. In the last article in miNiZ 85 I said that I might bring you golf clubs and bags as well in this article but it will be long enough without them. I will do an article on them though in an upcoming miNiZ.



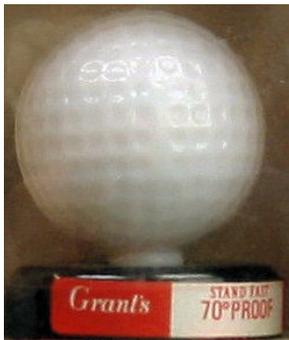
Those of you who are paying attention will have noticed that the first 10 golf balls are all from Suntory. The first is relatively easy to get hold of but all the others range from difficult to very difficult. Rival Japanese whiskey maker Nikka has also got into the act.

The final bottle above is from Whyte and MacKay, who now own the Beneagles brand after Peter Thompson went broke.



The group on the right starts with the Beneagles

Golf ball. Note that this says 'Peter Thomson's on the other side – don't think it is two minis! However if you collect label variations there are at least three. Clan Tartan is from the very well known McLech souvenir company. Finally we have the original Whyte & McKay golf ball.



Looking suspiciously like the Whyte & McKay we have a Grants golf ball on the far left with another Grants next to it. Most of these golf balls contain whisky but the last Grants one is filled with Morella Cherry Brandy. Also filled with

brandy is the yellow golf ball from August Kelle of Germany.



Next we have two balls from Stylish, the first on it's own bit of turf and the second in a bottle.



The glass golf ball is from Alexander of the Ukraine. There is at least one other label variation of this. Finally, for golf balls, we have three from Camus which contain Cognac.

Now to four balls missed off the first article.



The cricket and bowling balls are from WLS of the UK and the two soccer balls are German. If you have pictures of any balls we have not shown, please send them.

David Smith

DATE, TIME & PLACE

All meetings are subject to change. Please check before travelling

Sunday 21st June 2009, 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 28th June 2009, 2.00pm Peter Alty's, 12 Blencathra Place. Christchurch Telephone: 03 338 4220

Sunday 2nd August 2009, 2.00pm Trevor Harvey's, 44 Basingstoke Street, Christchurch Telephone: 03 388 7713

Sunday 6th September 2009, 12.30pm Pot Luck Lunch at David & Rosie's, 11 Trevor Terrace, Paremata Telephone: 04 233 2997 E-Mail: minidavid@xtra.co.nz

Sunday 13th September 2009, 2.00pm Robin & Jess Mellish's, 66 Rudds Road, Christchurch Telephone: 03 384 9757 E-Mail: jessmell@clear.net.nz

Sunday 18th October 2009, 2.00pm Jo Hastie's, 36 Wakanui Road, Hampstead, Ashburton

Sunday 25th October 2008, 12.30pm Pot Luck Lunch at Colin & Dianne Ryder's, 20 Prospect Terrace, Johnsonville Telephone: 04 478 4391 E-Mail: rydercjl@xtra.co.nz

Sunday 6th December 2009, 2.00pm Eric & Cheryl Sutton's, 14C Michigan Place, Westhaven, Christchurch Telephone: 03 383 9686 E-Mail: cjsutton@slingshot.co.nz

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

AGM 2010 in AUCKLAND - Weekend of 19th – 21st February 2010

***** Programme to be advised *****

The AGM weekends have been very successful. All are BYO food and drink. Remember to book your flights early to get the best deals. Please E-Mail: minisnz@gmail.com to let us know you are attending.

If you want to hold a meeting please let one of the committee know.

COLLECTIONS FOR SALE

Shane and Annie Sievers are from Christchurch and have inherited a small collection. Nothing exciting but they are happy to sell individually and you may find some bottles you want. Email: luckytrev@xtra.co.nz

Norman Theimer is from somewhere in Europe and also has a small collection for sale piecemeal. He will send you photos. Email: norman.theimer@gmx.net

Rex Moir still has many bottles for sale from his late mother's collection. Email: moir@paradise.net.nz On line at <http://community.webshots.com/user/RexMoir>

The cover picture is of a great piece of Italian glass. It is one of many pieces owned by Harland Johnson.