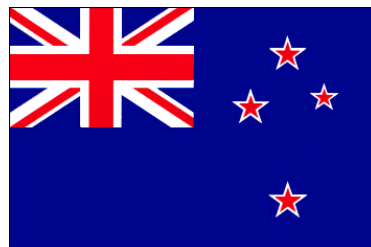


Issue 87

Spring 2009



miNiZ

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW ZEALAND MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



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

NZ, COVER BOTTLES ETC.

It's our policy to put a new New Zealand bottle on the cover but if there aren't any new ones (that we know of) then we have to show you something else. Hopefully you will like the desk set. This was made by President Palace and contains Royal Caprice XO Cognac. The magnifying glass, letter opener and pen each contain 30ml. My thanks to Dmitry Fedorov from Russia for sending me this. Dmitry has his own web site, <http://www.minicognac.ru>, which is well worth a visit. The only other President Palace bottle that I know of is a very realistic looking glass penis, which also contains Cognac. Maybe I will do an X-rated version of miNiZ some day!



These 70ml Scorpion Vodka were on sale in Fenwicks, a department store in Newcastle, UK. The scorpions are farm raised and are edible (but not be me thanks!). I would have bought one but MAF may have confiscated it on the way back into NZ, and it was £15!



The two bottles on the right and the one below were ones that caught my eye when looking on Ebay for other bottles. Miniature Araks are extremely rare. The blue glass Crystal Arak comes from Jordan. Hands up any of you who have seen a single malt whisky from Taiwan before? Ka Va Lan is the only one I have ever seen.



It's a Dogs Life is from Jim Beam and is said to be a mini. Can anyone confirm the size?

In miNiZ84 we had an article by Ken Chin on Welsh Whisky where we showed three Swn-Y-Mor rugby balls. The ball on the left is a variation found by Ian Butcher in the shop at the local tip – for \$3! Shame that Ian is

now so poor that he has to shop at the local tip. Donations welcome I'm sure!



David Smith

A RUM DO

I can't remember the last time we featured rum in miNiZ, so this article is well overdue.

We start with our only jug, Red Duster. Red Duster is the nickname for the Red Ensign, the flag of the British merchant navy. It is 83mm (3¼") tall and used to contain 70% proof Demerara rum (it is empty). It sold for a pitiful £0.99



The next four rums all sold for minimum bids of €7.00. The raffia wrapped Ron Caribe is from Paraguay. The next three rums are from Argentina, Caña Nabana Superior Ceibo, Rhum Hindu and Rhum Garrandes. All are about 115mm (4½") tall.



Wittenkamper Pamic is a Jamaican rum bottled in Germany. This is a small bottle, only 0.02 L, and is obviously sized to compete with after dinner Bitters. It did not sell for the minimum US\$1.99 asking bid. Ron (rum) Don Juan is a 50ml plastic bottle from Ecuador. This did sell for the US\$2.99 minimum bid.



Neither Flor de Caña Gold 4 year old nor Flor de Caña Extra Dry 4 year old sold.

Shame as they are nice bottles and the minimum bid was set at a very reasonable US\$1.99. Both are 50ml, 40% and both are from Nicaragua.

I will try not to leave it so long next time before we have some more rums.

David Smith

TUFAN KOC

Not a well known name but one that many of you should know. Tufan Koc is a manufacturer of blown glass minis from *Turkey!* Not the first country you would think of when looking for minis. There are at least a couple of other Turkish mini manufacturers but Tufan Koc is by far the most prolific. Many of these minis can be found for sale on Ebay.

Most bottles have a number of variations. I will let the bottles speak for themselves.





If you want to see more go to <http://www.minibottlelibrary.com/mbi/alpha/tufan-koc/index.html>

David Smith

T.G.I. FRIDAY'S

Here are some unique miniature bottles from the mid 1990's that you may have not seen. All are 50ml glass bottles and they are among the most colorful and fun miniature bottles I have in my collection. .

In 1965 the first T.G.I. FRIDAY'S Restaurant opened in New York City. It quickly grew with new locations opening across the world. It is still is a popular restaurant in the USA and in many other countries around the world. In addition to a wide assortment of unique foods, the restaurants were also noted for their unique drink selections.

In 1994 they started bottling a number of their signature drinks under their own special label. Fortunately for mini bottle collectors, T.G.I. FRIDAY'S made a number of miniature bottles with some very brightly colored labels. The first of these minis was the **B-52 cocktail**. Next came **Butter Ball cocktail**, **Hot Cinnamon cocktail**, **Lemon Drop cocktail**, and **Mudslide cocktail**. In 1995 three more flavors came out. They were **Kosmic Kaze cocktail**, **Monkey Bite cocktail**, and **Oatmeal Cookies cocktail** (can't imagine what that must taste like!). In 1996, only a **Watermelon cocktail** was released in miniature.



In 1997 T.G.I. FRIDAY'S changed their label design and came out with some "re-makes" of their cocktails and one new flavor. First was the new & improved **B52 cocktail** label. A new flavor called **Kami Kaze cocktail**, followed by a new **Monkey Bite** cocktail label, a new **Mudslide cocktail** label, and a new **Watermelon cocktail** label were also released in 1997.

While full size bottles of various T.G.I. FRIDAY'S signature drinks are still sold in stores under the T.G.I. FRIDAY'S label, for some reason no miniatures that I know of were released after 1997.

One final comment. You may have noticed "*Made in Australia*" on a number of the caps. This indicated the pull tab ripcaps were made in Australia. All of the miniature bottles were produced by Hueblein Inc. in the USA.



I will have more bottles of interest in the next edition of miNiZ.

Jim Crawford



PIDDLE BREWERY

Rob Martin and Paul Goldsack, who run Christchurch's 600-year-old coaching house Ye Olde George Inn, are two people overflowing with energy and exuberance. So when they chose Piddlehinton as the location for their new venture, the name was a no-brainer and

the Dorset Piddle Brewery was born. These are not minis but I couldn't resist showing them to you.....

David

SCOTCH – BLENDS

Scotch blends tend to be the poor cousins of malt scotches but there are, literally, thousands of variations, some of which are common and very boring and others that are fascinating. The Scotches shown here, other than the first one, were all for sale on Ebay over the last few months.

Palace of Hollyrood House 10 year old was bought by me at, where else, Hollyrood House in Edinburgh. Hollyrood House is the Queen's official residence in Scotland but is best known as the home of Mary, Queen of Scots. Cost was £3.95



The 10cl bottle in the shape of a Cadillac contains Kenmore Scotch but was bottled for, and sold exclusively by, Marks & Spencers. £7.50 bought it – probably less than it originally cost from the store.



Highness Scotch. I forgot to track the price but it was over US\$35 when I last saw it.

Royal Arms looks to be an interesting old bottle. It sold, together with two other (rubbish) bottles, for only US\$5 – a bargain for someone.





We start this page with four flasks. Loch Fyne Highlands blended scotch whisky was imported into the USA by Greig, Lawrence & Hoyt, Limited. There is a State of Maryland liquor excise tax stamp. The bottle measures 115mm (4.5") tall and is empty. It sold for US\$9.99. The Highland Queen dates from the 1930's. It has a lead seal and an intact tax stamp. US\$16.36 bought it. The Scotch Shivers was bottled especially for the Israeli market. It sold for a single bid of US\$9.99. Finally we have the first of our John Begg Blue Cap Scotches. Like the Highland Queen this is from the 1930's and has a lead seal and intact tax stamp. US\$15.19 bought it.



Other than that it is clearly rather old, and that it sold for US\$20, I can't tell you anything about the Beggs Liqueur Scotch.



The seller provided us with photos of three sides of the King Henry VIII Scotch. This was distilled in Scotland but graduated and bottled in Argentina. It contains 50cc and is approx. 90mm (3.5") High.



Another US import from the 1930's is this Haig & Haig clip top bottle. Bidding was brisk and finished at US\$32.56.



Old Mr. Boston is a very well known US name but this Scotch bottle is not at all common. Lively bidding resulted in a purchase price of US\$66.52. I have not seen the two Johnnie Walker bottles before. Both contain 5cl. The Premier sold for £7.49 and the Swing Superior for £10.50

Gold labelled King George IV was bottled in February 1934 by The Distillers Agency Ltd, Edinburgh. This is a really nice bottle, and in good condition, but unfortunately it is fairly common and so only sold for US\$11.05



The Chivas Life is a limited edition 12yo Chivas Regal with a leather jacket and a compass. It sold for £26

The three Royal Highness jugs are Scotch bottled in Peru. US\$34 bought the lot.



David Smith

FLOWER BABIES

I have brought you Niccolo Mice, Flower Girls and Cartoon Characters in previous miNiZ. Here we have two babies and four flowers, again from Niccolo of Italy. I think that there were only two babies and four flowers but feel free to send me photos if I am wrong!



The boy sold on Ebay for US\$37.03 and the girl for US\$37.01. Each are 70mm (2.75") high. They were made in Italy in the 1980's.



The four flowers all sold well and to the same buyer but, as is obvious, there was an extra bidder for one bottle and this doubled the price.



Bottles one and two (white) sold for US\$36 each, three (pink) went for an incredible US\$68 then bottle four (yellow) again sold for US\$36.

David Smith



LEAN PICKINGS (FOR ME)

Rosie and myself have recently returned from a trip to the UK. If I had been a Scotch collector I could have got hundreds, if not thousands of different straight Scotches in Scotland. As it was I found almost nothing to interest me in England and very little to interest me in Scotland. The few Scottish minis I did find were VERY expensive.



There were a number of Pointers hexagonal and square flasks for sale but, other than at Gretna Green, they were all £35 (about NZ\$85) each. A few were on sale at Gretna for £24 (NZ\$60) but I passed on these also. I did however photograph a few for Miniature Bottle Library, so I can share these with you.

Above and below we have the first five in a new series of sporting flasks. Note that the older flasks were hexagonal but these are square. The above are all for Celtic FC; European Cup Winners 1967, Henrik Larsson & Tommy Burns. Below we have a Rangers player, Ally McCoist and Tiger Woods, who I am sure, needs no introduction. There is also a large Mohammad Ali flask – does anyone know if this has been made in miniature? There were a few hexagonal flasks that I had not seen before but I am not sure whether these were new or not. One that definitely is new is the 200th anniversary of the battle of Trafalgar.



In Edinburgh I picked up one macromini that I had not seen before, Bladnoch. I bought two Royal Salute 21 year old at the distillery but unfortunately they did not have the third colour.

I had a number of bottles which I had bought off Ebay over the preceding few months waiting for me at my sister-in-law's house. They included these four ceramic One Special Scotch bottles (the Winsor says One Special Scotch on the back), the beehive kiln, which is a very unusual Clan Tartan (McLech) bottle, and the WLS panda.



The junk and charity shops proved the most fruitful in England. I bought a number of minis in them, some new and some to upgrade the bottles I had. The two Luxardo cats are one of each. I bought no bottles at all in the off-licenses (bottle stores).

I forgot to say earlier that one other type of bottle I did see a lot of in Scotland and occasionally in England, were the Stylish Scotch moulded glass. I had not realized when I had seen pictures of some of these that many, indeed most, are actually 200ml or more in size. Both the bottles shown are 50ml. The globe has been used by manufacturers all over Europe. I have also seen the heart bottle saying I Love You and I Love Scotland.



An enjoyable holiday but not a good trip 'bottle wise.'

David Smith

WORLD WHISKIES

When we think of whisky/whiskey we think of Scotland, the USA and possibly Japan but whisky has and is being made all over the world. In this article I am going to show you two bottles from each of seven countries.

We start with two New Zealand whiskies that I got the photos of after I had already completed the cover and inside cover article. The 1993 Limited Edition Single Malt is a 100ml flask bottled by The New Zealand Malt Whisky Company Limited from Oamaru. This has to be Wilson's malt as it was the only NZ malt being distilled in 1993. Preston's Single Wood is a blended whisky which was also bottled by The New Zealand Malt Whisky Company Limited. It was distilled at Willowbank distillery, Dunedin, in 1997 and bottled in 2007.



Next we cross 'the ditch' to Australia. Corio is probably the best known Australian whisky. This is a 5 year old, 50ml bottle. It sold for US\$29.00. Hellyers Road is a 50ml Tasmanian single malt whisky. The box says that it is slightly peated. US\$12.95 bought it.

Keeping travelling north in the pacific we come to Taiwan. I showed you a Taiwanese single malt, Ka Va Lan, on the inside cover. Here we have a blended malt and an unknown quality mini. The blended malt is a 50ml Dam-Ba, which sold for US\$13 and the unknown is an 80ml bottle, Jade Supremacy Classic, which sold for US\$16.

Starting the next page we have two Canadians. UDL (United Distillers Limited) is a name we usually associate with Scotch but this is a true Canadian Whisky. We know that this bottle was sold in Maryland, USA but we do not



know when. It sold this time for US\$27.95. Seagram's Ancient Bottle Straight Rye Whiskey has a 1931 US tax stamp. US\$34 bought it.



From Canada we head to South America. Whisky Ancap is a true Uruguay whisky. I can tell you that it is 115mm (4½") tall and failed to sell for a €7 minimum bid.

Another bottle from Uruguay that did not sell (also for a €7 asking price) was Old Times Special. This is a blended Whisky made in Uruguay from Scotch malt. I can tell you that it is 102mm (4") tall but know nothing else.



Immediately south of Uruguay is Argentina. There are lots of Argentinian whiskies and lots more Scotches bottled in Argentina. Both these bottles fetched a very disappointing US\$3.49. The Breeders Choice El Elegido Los Criadores Whisky is 50cms (unusual size equalling 50ml) at 43%. Maclin Viejo Whisky Old Whisky is the other Argentinian I have to show you but I have no more information.



Finally we head back north and across the Atlantic to Germany. Both the Glen Blue and Glen House are pure malt whiskies and both are 40ml 40%vol. They were made by Robert Fleischmann. Both sold for the same price also, €19.51.

I will try to bring you some whiskies from more countries in a future miNiZ.

David Smith

TERRIFIC TEQUILA

Collecting Tequilas has become very fashionable in recent years. Not surprising really as the quality of the bottles is superb. I have a few here for you that sold on Ebay over the last few months.



Asom Broso Silver, shown on the right, has a rather rude look about it. It sold for US\$12. A Reposado in same shape bottle sold at the same time for US\$11.50



Unfortunately Aha Toro failed to sell for the asked for US\$9.99 minimum bid. This is a 50ml Reposado Tequila.

Rio De Plata Tequila Anejo was made in the 1980's. It is 50ml but, being squat, is only 73mm (2 7/8") high. US\$11.95 bought it.



Cabo Wabo Cantina Terra Firme Tequila is another 50ml squat bottle. I was surprised that it only sold for US\$6.50



To the right we have three Herradura bottles. Strictly speaking the first isn't a Tequila it's a Mezcal. Supremo Mezcal Tequila De La Fabrica is 48GL 50ml and sold



for US\$5.50. Next along is a 50ml Reposado which went for US\$6.50 and finally we have an older bottle that does not show the quality or quantity. I can tell you that it is 120mm (4¾") high and sold for US\$5.99. The final bottle in the row is Sarape Tequila Blanco which is 136mm (5⅜") tall square shaped bottle that sold for US\$7.00



The blue labelled bottle, Las Trancas Blanco, sold for US\$7.00 and the red, Las Trancas Reposado for US\$5.00. I can tell you no more. The Tequila Corralejo in the attractive blue bottle is 100ml. Not surprisingly it sold well at US\$15.50



The Virreyes Oro on the left is 86mm (3⅜") tall. Unfortunately this did not sell well as it only got a minimum bid of US\$3.25. The Hussong's jug was sold as 'RARE!!!' whereas it is anything but. This jug is 50ml and is the most common Tequila jug there is. It did sell for the minimum asking bid of US\$9.99. I can tell you nothing about Supremo, except that it is 120mm (4¾") tall and sold for a record (for this article anyway) US\$36.66. The only bottle to come close to



this is the blue and white ceramic Calera Reposado. This is another 50ml bottle and is in perfect condition. US\$30 bought it.

The wording for the bottle on the left stated "*Rare Olmeca Tequila Gold Mini Bottle. The bottle is in great condition and is embossed on the sides and back, 1940s.*" Anyone collecting minis in NZ in the 1980's would recognise this bottle as you could buy it anywhere, together with a 'Silver.' Take what you read on Ebay with 'a pinch of salt.' Do the same with your Tequilas of course! The bottle sold for a US\$5.50 minimum bid.

I hope that the person who bought the Espolon mini Tequila, shown on the right, was happy with their purchase. It does not show up this small but it is clearly shown on the label to be a 750ml bottle and the proportions support this. As it was sold as 50ml one can only assume that the seller was too lazy to take a photo. Hopefully the buyer did not purchase it thinking he was buying a rare label variation. US\$9.00



Porfidio has a cactus blown into the bottom of the bottle. This is one of several Porfidio bottles with cacti but the only one I have seen this shape. Bidding was brisk and it sold for US\$18.01

Unusually, Coll 62 Tequila comes from Palma de Mallorca. It is also unusual being a flask, not something you see often with Tequila in. I forgot to write down the selling price but thought that you might like to see



this obviously very old bottle anyway.

The Don Julio bottles both were being sold with a US\$8.99 minimum bid and both failed to sell at least twice.

More Tequilas another time.....

David Smith



LUCKY LIQUEURS

It is not often that I show you liqueurs and, to be honest, I am only doing so this time as I still have a page to fill. There is however another reason, they rarely sell singly. There are always plenty of liqueurs for sale on Ebay but many of these are in sets or large piles. Only one in 30 or so of the liqueurs put up for sale singly actually sells. These are a few that did but note all sold for minimum bids.



We start with the rather nice Stock, Cherristock liqueur from Italy. This sold for US\$4.99. Next we have a very familiar liqueur, Tia Maria. This mini is actually quite only (I would guess 1960's or possibly 1950's) as you can see from the Bakelite cap. It is in great condition for such an old bottle. This was another US\$4.99 bottle.



The next bottles are all 1930's. The two Cusenier Liqueur Jaune bottles are from France. They are the same, apart from the US importers label on the first one. The Peach Liqueur is from La Madrilena of Mexico. This company made some great liqueur bottles. All these three bottles are 115mm (4.5") tall and each sold for US\$9.99.



Godiva liqueur comes with the gold sack. It is 50ml and 102mm (4") tall. Sale price, for such a nice bottle, was a disappointing US\$2.99.



Now for a couple of unusual 50ml liqueurs that did not sell. US\$9.99 was asked for the Wild Africa Cream and US\$10.95 for the Van Gogh Triple Sec Superieur. Clearly both too high, especially as the latter is plastic.

David Smith

DATE, TIME & PLACE

All meetings are subject to change. Please check before travelling

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: rydercj@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.

miNiZ WANTS YOU!

You will have noticed that, other than the article by Jim Crawford, this miNiZ has been written entirely by David Smith (me!). I enjoy editing miNiZ and do enjoy writing articles but it is an imposition to be asked to write 18 out over 20 pages. All collectors DO have something to contribute. How did you start collecting? What are your favourite bottles? What is new in your area? What is unusual in your collection? Etc. Etc. You do not have to be a professional writer as I am happy to edit and polish the article for you. A few photos would be appreciated but I can often find photos on-line to go with an article. Give it a go!

COLLECTIONS FOR SALE

David Smith now has all his swaps (1200+) on-line and priced to sell. Take a look at: <http://www.minibottlelibrary.com/forsale/index.html>

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>