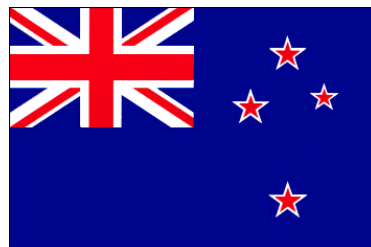


Issue 95

Summer 2012



miNiZ

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW ZEALAND MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



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

THIS & THAT & COVER BOTTLES

The three cover bottles are a new name, Wild Fern, but this company is a successor of Bemrose who have made quite a number of New Zealand minis. They were found by both Ken Chin and myself in a honey shop in Wellington. It is a pity that they are plastic and even more of a pity that they are \$10.99 each! Ken also found the Famous Grouse. This is a new label and has the NZ importer's name on the back label.

There is a lot of Scotch in this issue so we might as well kick off the snippets with three expensive 12 year old Scotches from Peter Bonkovich.



The Springbank flask sold for £43.60, The Glendronach sold for £74.98 and the Cardhu flask for £90.88 after 13 bids.



From Jim Crawford, via Ian Butcher, comes the picture of the two Mischief bottles. I can't tell you any more but check out Jim's new web site: <http://jimsbottles.com/>



Errol Brassett wrote to say, in response to the article in miNiZ94, that he would argue strongly that sachet minis are a valid mini collector item. You will find a page later with photos of some he has. I have just got my first, a 1,000 Deutschemark note from Vundec. I would like to get my hands on some of the Euro note sachets (€5-500) that Vundec make as these will probably be worth more than the real things soon!

There are a few unusual bottles I found that I have been meaning to share with you all. I found the mariachi set on a web site earlier last year. At 200ml they are a bit over-sized for minis, but isn't it a great





set? They contain Tequila reposado. I am sure that most of you will be familiar with the Rocher Freres train set. You could have bought this set on Ebay for a crazy £4.99. The Maker's Mark bourbon is an otherwise standard bottle with a top hat and cane. This was made for the 1995 Kentucky Derby.



Three whiskey bottles caught my eye on Ebay. Old Tucker from Brown-Forman is a 1930's flask in great condition. At US\$34 this was a steal. Everglade from R. E. Wathen & Company is probably a similar age. This fared much better at US\$124. The jugs issued by Kuba MBC of the Czech Republic will be well known to most of you and many are still



available on their web site: <http://www.czechminis.com/> but the 501 jug isn't. This was issued in a limited release for the 4th anniversary of a club in Moscow. It contains Gold Cock Czech whisky. It is the only Kuba MBC jug I do not have but I missed bidding on it. A mere US\$20.50 bought it.



The next six bottles all come from David Spaid, he writes: "Ever-Green Vodka I believe was made for the club in the Czech Republic. Jemna 42 Vodka is a new one from there also. The absinthes and the vodka are from Spain whereas the Pisco Porton is, of course, from Peru, but not yet sold down there. This Pisco may be sold in NY but all the others are only available in their country of origin."





Frank Wynn tells me that earlier last year, at Graysonline (an Australian auction house), a 50ml miniature of 1885 Seppelts Para Liqueur Port sold for A\$254.00. If he remembers right, Para Liqueur Port is bottled at 100 years of age so this would be a 1985 bottling. And I always thought that miniature wines did not sell well!



This article was finished when Harland Johnson sent the photo of the blown glass Ferrari that he found in Hong Kong. At \$700 Harland did not buy it but I had to show it to you. It contains 0.1 litre of 40% Scotch.

Last, but not least, a bottle for our Christchurch collectors.....

David Smith

#####

THE GIMLET



Most New Zealand collectors of a certain age group will have the Gilbey's Gimlet bottle in their collection. Although it is not such a common cocktail the Gimlet does have a long history.

It began in 1867 when the Merchant Shipping Act required British vessels to ration an ounce of sweetened lime or lemon juice daily to prevent scurvy caused by vitamin c deficiency (hence the term limeys for Brits). The dose was mixed with alcohol, usually rum, which acted as a preservative. The same year a Scotsman, Lachlan Rose, had developed a way to preserve lime juice without the use of alcohol. This made it perfect for long sea journeys. As it was cloying the seamen added gin to it.

There are two versions as to how its name came about. The first is that it is named after Thomas Gimlette, a Surgeon General of the British Navy, who promoted the drink. The other is that it is named after a gimlet, an elementary corkscrew like instrument, which was used to bore into the casks and thus release the gin.

One of the first mentions of the drink as a cocktail came in 1930 when it appeared in the Savoy Cocktail Book. To be a true Gimlet it must be a mixture of gin and Roses lime juice. However in the 1970's vodka became the spirit of choice. If you exchange orange juice for the gin you have the Screwdriver, but that is a different story.

Frank Wynn

BOTTLES FROM RUSSIA

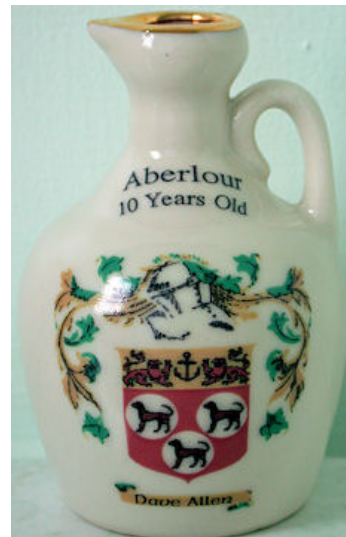
Mikhail Madar sent these pictures of these strange new ceramic bottles from Voronezh, Russia. They contain vodka but Mikhail did not know the name of the vodka or the distillery. Mikhail is a new member of Russian origin but living in the US. He has sent us some more photos and carried out some translation work for us later in this issue.



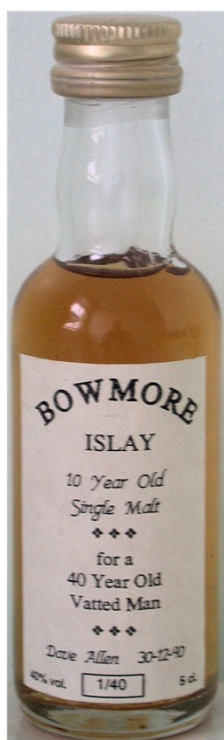
Mikhail Madar

CUMBRAE, RUTHERFORD AND POINTERS

Hello everyone. My name is Dave Allen and I'm a recent recruit to your club. Some of you may already know me as the ceramics officer, secretary and auctioneer of the UK Mini Bottle Club, with whom I recently celebrated 25 years of membership. As a point of interest I commissioned a commemorative miniature jug from Rutherford's in recognition of this landmark. You can see an image of it in photo one. This year I decided that it was long overdue that I spread my wings a bit, and to this end I took out a membership of the NZ club. I hope to make a contribution to your newsletter in the form of some articles on my own specialist interest which is Scotch and Irish whisk(e)y miniature jugs and figurals. If they are well received then I would plan to produce one for each magazine.



For this, my first article, I'll give you a brief profile of the long established Cumbrae Supply Company, which was very prolific in the manufacture and marketing of both ceramic and glass miniatures. The company was formed around 1960 by a Mr. Gollogley, and it thrived for several years until his untimely death. His wife took over and kept it ticking along for a short time before selling to Mr. Irving Garrett, who had previously formed the Paisley Whisky Company in 1964. Under his stewardship the amalgamated firms prospered under the trading name of the Cumbrae Supply Company, with the Paisley Whisky Company name being consigned to the history books. The organisation thrived until 1982 when Mr. Garrett was involved in a serious road accident and decided to retire from the business.



CSC continued trading, but on a repeat orders only basis, being run as a one woman operation by a Mrs. Gentle, until it was sold in 1987 to the current owner Mrs. Jane MacDuff. She oversaw a complete revamp and expansion of the business which also involved a move to new premises in Linwood. The expansion included the installation of its own pottery to complement the bottling operation which was already in place. Up till then all of the pottery had been carried out by "Highland China". The main outlets for CSC's products at that time were Malcolm Cowan, Selfridges and the Robin Hood Gift House. Their primary selling agents were M & M Holm of Troon on the west coast of Scotland.

Although the bulk of the products of the Cumbrae Supply Company were up to that point destined for the tourist trade, they diversified and became increasingly involved in the production of one-off promotional and "own label" bottles containing both blended and malt Scotch whiskies. An example of this was the highly successful range of A & C. Walker bottles which you will all no doubt be familiar with. As a further aside, I



commissioned a limited edition of 40 miniature bottles containing Bowmore 10yo single malt Scotch whisky from them back in 1990 in celebration of my 40th birthday. You can see that

one in photo 2. Photos 3 – 7 give you a small cross section of the products of the Cumbræ Supply Company, each of which contains their own Souvenir Scotch whisky. Photos 8, 9 and 10 are three of the products from the Paisley Whisky Company, though in their case they contained proprietary named whiskies, Strathayr and Long John.

CSC also marketed on behalf of Scottish & Newcastle Breweries, who owned Beneagles, a company that produced a wide range of both ceramic and glass bottles. Beneagles were, of course, previously owned by Peter Thomson (Perth) Ltd. You will no doubt be aware of some, if not all, of the Beneagles pieces, which included Nessie, Haggis, Grizzly Bear, Squirrel etc. The most striking pieces were of course the larger ceramics ranging in size from 20cl up to 75cl, which included the stunning set of four Owls and the Birds of Prey series. Beneagles will be the subject of a future article.

As I said at the outset, CSC's targeted customer was the tourist, and to this end they produced a whole raft of items both in ceramic and glass (see <http://www.minibottlelibrary.com/mbl/alpha/cumbræ-supply/index.html> plus many more in MBL under individual brand names - Editor). One that you will be familiar with is the smallest bottle of whisky in the world, as verified by the Guinness Book of Records.

Today the company seems to have turned its back somewhat on the production of ceramic decanters. Their main business nowadays appears to involve bonding and bottling for a variety of customers, but I live in hope that one day they will resume production of the ceramic jugs and figurals that made their name.



Moving on to new issues in this part of the world, Rutherford's and Pointer's seem to be the only ceramics producers left, but they have been busy recently, launching several items each during 2011.

In the case of Rutherford, their main focus this year was the royal wedding of William and Kate. They produced a series of five mini jugs in recognition of the event. Photos 11 and 12 were issued to commemorate the wedding itself, 13 and 14 were issued at the time of their engagement, and photo 15 carries an image of Diana holding William as a baby. All of these jugs contain 5cl of the Rutherford blend bottled at 40%vol. I have it on good authority that there will be an issue shortly from

this company to mark the 100th anniversary of Titanic, so watch this space.



With regards to Pointer's, they have produced no at least 49 decanters, each of which holds 10cl of their own blend, bottled at 40%vol. Photo 16 was issued under license from Granada Ventures Ltd., and depicts famous characters from Coronation Street, the iconic soap opera that has been running now for over 50 years. Photo 17 is Pointer's royal wedding release, and photos 18 and 19 were anniversary issues in commemoration of the 70th

anniversary of the Battle of Britain (1940 – 2010). Photos 20 – 28 are all individual pieces from the series depicting footballers and managers of Glasgow Rangers Football Club from throughout the club's history and 29-34 depict footballers from Celtic Football Club. Each of these ones carries an image of the player to the front, a list of his achievements on either side and a short profile on the reverse. I have been informed that there will be a further 12



issues from this company in the very near future. They sound quite exciting, so should be worth waiting for. I'll update you on them next time.



That's your lot for my first article. Hopefully you will have found some interest in it, and if you have then there's more to follow, so till then.....

Dave Allen

CHEAP SCOTCH

We often do an article "As Seen on Ebay" which highlights not only unusual bottles but also the very high prices that some bottles sell for. For those of you who do not regularly use Ebay, here is the other side of the coin. All these bottles sold for the minimum acceptable bid and all sold for less than US\$3. Cheaper than they would sell for in a liquor store today if new.

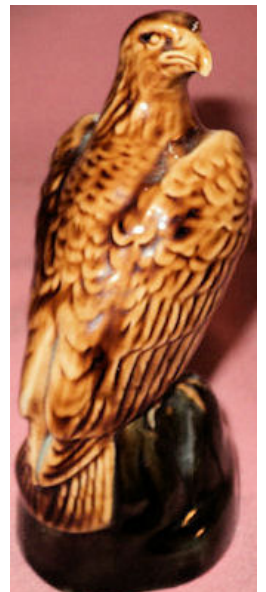
99 cents bottles:



\$2.93 bottles:

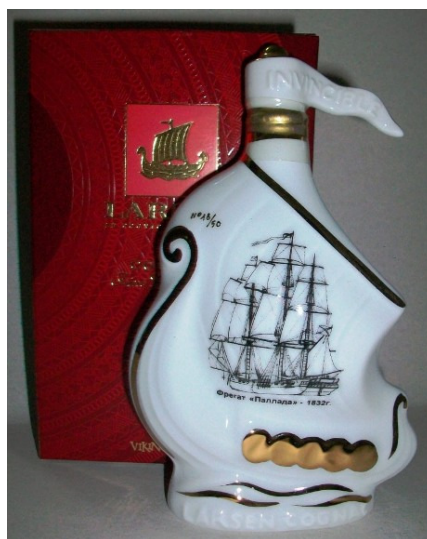


The Beneagles eagle sold for \$1.59 and another for \$3.00. The golf ball went for 99 cents.



David Smith

SPECIAL LARSEN SHIPS



These are very special Larsen Viking Ships. They are each from a limited edition of only 50 bottles and each has on it a picture of a different Russian ship. The top row are: the frigate Pallada, the frigate Oryol and the battleship Poltava. To the left is the Boat of Peter I.

There have been a large number of larger 'special' bottles issued for the Larsen Collectors' Club but not many minis. The following 7 bottles are all that we know of. The white, red marble and green marble are limited editions of 100 and the other four are limited to 50 each.

The violet and orange ships below were for the 80th anniversary.



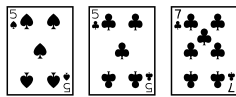
*Mikhail Madar
& David Smith*

MORE SACHETS

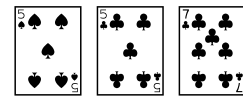
As a follow up to the article "Miniature Bottles?!?" in miNiZ94 Errol Brassett writes:

"Personally, I do consider the sachets to be a 'kind of 'legitimate' mini' and have nine of them in my collection. They were made by Totpak and 'collected' in Capetown, South Africa and none of the nine were included in the article, so here are some photos.





CARD BOTTLES



I recently found these unusual 'card' bottles and thought you might like to see them. They are all German but unfortunately I do not know how old they are. I will let them speak for themselves.



The article was finished when I came across Deuces Wild on Ebay. It dates from the 1930's and sold for US\$57.90

David Smith

SCOTTISH WILDLIFE

I had started preparing this article when I received the article from Dave Allen (see earlier) giving the history of Cumbrae Supply Company. The first 12 bottles are from that company and, I'm sure you will agree, very nice bottles. They each contain 5cl of Scotch at 40%.



The top row shows: The Dunlin, The Red Fox, The Capercaillie, The Otter, The Wild Cat, & The Rock Ptarmigan. The bottom row shows: The Osprey, The Red Squirrel, The Puffin, The Golden Eagle, The Common Seal & The Red Deer.

We start off the next page with another set of Scotches, also called Scottish Wildlife. These were made by Signatory for the Scottish Wildlife Trust and each contain 5cl at 43%. The first again depicts a Puffin. This bottle contains 14 year old Glenturret single malt.



Next is another otter bottle. This contains 16 year old single malt Scotch from the Imperial Distillery. I have no idea what the birds the next two bottle represent. The first contains 14 year old Port Ellen single malt and the second 15 year old Aberfeldy single malt. There are more in this series.

I believe that the next bottles are an earlier series made by Signatory for the Scottish Wildlife Trust. Again, each contains 5cl at 43%. The Red Squirrel contains 10 year old single malt from the Strathmill Distillery. Next up is another Otter, this time filled with 10 year old single malt from the Port Ellen Distillery on Islay. I do not know what bird is on the third bottle but it contains 10 year old single Mortlach malt. Finally in this series (again there more than we are showing) we have another Capercaille. This bottle contains 10 year old single malt from the Balmenach Distillery.



Also from Balmenach Distillery is the 1977 Snowy Owl bottle, another single malt. It is a 5cl/43% bottle from The Whisky Connoisseur. Also from them is the Osprey. This contains 5cl/43% of an un-named single malt.

We finish this article with more bottles from The Whisky Connoisseur. This is the spectacular "Hunters of the Air" set of six, comprising: Bonelli's Eagle, Kestrel, Sparrow Hawk, Black-winged Kite, Merlin & White-tailed Eagle.



These bottles just say Highland Malt and so are probably a blend. All are 5cl/43%.



I have some football bottles to show you in miNiZ96.

David Smith

#####

NAUGHTY GERMANS

miNiZ88 was our X Rated edition but at that time I did not have many photos of the numerous 'straight' risqué German bottles. It's about time we featured a few and, as you will see, even bottles such as this have label variations - enjoy!





David Smith

COGNAC & ARMAGNAC

I came across a couple of interesting sets of dated Cognacs and saved them to share with you. Not literally you understand. I love Cognac, and Armagnac even more so, but would not dream of drinking these minis.

Each of these Prunier Cognacs is 50ml but the percentage alcohol varies from year to year.

The Hine are 5cl at 40%. Ignore the numbers on the necks as they are the owner's collection numbering system.



Not an old and rare Cognac but this Martell bottle, in the lifeboat, was bottled especially for the R.N.L.I



Finally, three Armagnacs. I found all of these on Ebay. The first, Manoir de Berault, was a US import in 1937 (according to the tax stamp). It sold for US\$20. Des Durs d'Esme is clearly quite old and clearly it is in remarkably good condition, a minimum bid of US\$8.99 bought it - shame, it deserved to sell for more. Finally, an even worse sale, US\$4.99 for the Marquis de Montesquiou flask.

David Smith

NICCOLO BOYS

We have shown you some of the extensive range of Niccolo bottles from Italy before, some in "As Seen On Ebay" and others in articles in miNiZ82, 84 & 90. The Niccolo bottles are mainly small for ceramics. Here we have 12 Boys, each about 65mm in height.



I'll bring you more in a future issue.

David Smith

DATE, TIME & PLACE

For obvious reasons meetings in Christchurch are still suspended this year. If there are to be any we will try to let out-of-town members know.

Weekend of 17th - 19th February 2012 AGM in Wellington

Friday Evening - Barbecue @ David & Rosie Smith's, 11 Trevor Terrace, Paremata,
Porirua. Phone: 04 233 2997

Saturday Morning - Bottlestores, Wellington

Saturday Lunch - Wellington Waterfront

Saturday Afternoon - Weta Museum & tour around south coast

Saturday Evening - Meal @ Ken & Malee Chin's, 29 Norton Park Avenue, Fairfield,
Lower Hutt. Phone: 04 938 1488

Sunday Morning - TBA (suggestions welcome)

Sunday Lunch - Barbecue @ Colin & Dianne Ryder's, 20 Prospect Terrace, Johnsonville.
Phone: 04 478 4391

Sunday Afternoon - AGM 2.30

Accommodation can be arranged for out-of-town members - email Colin, rydercj@xtra.co.nz or David, minizv@gmail.com

The AGM Weekends have been very successful. All are BYO food and drink (except Saturday night is BYO drink only). Remember to book your flights early to get the best deals. This is a chance to meet or catch up with other collectors, view some great collections and obtain some new bottles.

Please E-Mail: minisnz@gmail.com to let us know you are attending.

Meeting dates for 2012 will be arranged following the AGM. **If you want to hold a meeting please let one of the committee know.**

[illegible]

EDITORIAL

Not enough articles from you lot! Sound familiar? Actually this issue is not too bad with two articles from new member, Mikhail Madar, a long article from new member, Dave Allen and articles from Frank Wynn and Errol Brassett. There are also contributions from Peter Bonkovich, David Spaid, Ken Chin & Ian Butcher. Thank you all.

I am however still doing too much writing and not doing nearly enough editing!

More. **More.** I want **MORE.**

That was my shortest ever editorial - *David*