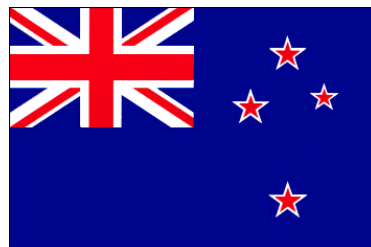


Issue 98

Spring 2012



miniNZ

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW ZEALAND MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



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

COVER BOTTLES, NEW NZ ETC



As someone who has a specialist collection of NZ bottles it is always good to find a new one - or better still 11. Ken Chin found these and can probably get more if any member wants a set and cannot find them locally. There are 5 sets with 4 bottles in each but

only 11 in total. Ken did well to get three sets with only one duplicate bottle. Expect to pay about \$8 per bottle retail, although Ken managed to get a number of sets cheaper than that.

Erica Mulder found the next two bottles. The Prenzel Kirsch dates from 1994 and is an original 30ml Prenzel bottle. Prenzel have been bust twice since then and changed their bottle type three times. The club used to buy direct from Prenzel so it is amazing that we have not seen this one before. Also a good few years old is the Austin Nichols Wild Turkey bottle with the cheap importers label on the back.



Has anyone seen any new 42 Below bottles? I have had four enquiries from the US saying that there are new versions and can I get some. It may be that they are an export only version but keep your eyes open and, please, drop me an email if you find some.

I recently had a request to advertise on Miniature Bottle Library - I turned them down as the site is strictly non-commercial. It now has over 30,000 images by the way.

I keep forgetting to welcome new members. No offence meant, I'm just b___dy useless! Here are two I haven't forgotten:

Bill Baker Jr., 17109 Bluffview Ridge Ct., Chesterfield, MO 63005, USA

Email: RHODESBB@aol.com

Rob Colvin, c/o Money Concepts, 5204 Roblin Blvd., Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3T-5RZ

E-Mail: rcolvin9@shaw.ca

David Smith minizv@gmail.com

GIN

Most articles you see these days seem only to be concerned with new vodkas and tequilas. Gins just don't seem to get much press. (This article was held over from the last issue where, strangely, we originally had two gin articles. We also have another in this issue - Editor). So here are a dozen gins from the last few years that should merit your attention.



Picture number one features four European gins. Blue Ribbon is from France; No. 1 is part of a set sold in Sweden; Van Gogh Celebrity Cruises X was sold as part of a Van Gogh set only available on Celebrity Cruise ships, and Arctic Velvet (please pardon the picture) is part of an Arctic Velvet set from Greenland...or at least that's where the water comes from.

Next picture shows four quite distinctly different bottles. Gabriel Doudier's Saffron Gin is from Dijon, France; Organic Nation from Ashland, Oregon here in the States; Cork Crimson hails from Ireland, and the very nicely-shaped Bulldog is, of course, from England.



Picture three has one bottle from South Africa and three from the U.S. The Jorgensen's is the South African one (they also produce Primitiv Vodka); the Jackalope and Tub are both from Peach Street Distillers of Palisade, Colorado, and the Bluecoat is from Philadelphia, PA.

What interesting gins have you found?

David Spaid

RUTHERFORD & MACEWEN

I'll start this article with the Rutherford jugs I've been talking about in the last two newsletters, but I'm afraid I'm still waiting for the ones from Pointer's. I was, however, able to obtain several other royal decanters from Rutherford's that I would appear to have missed out on when they were originally issued. I'm sure you will enjoy seeing them.

Starting with the new issues first, photo 1 depicts the jug that Rutherford's issued in celebration of the queen's diamond jubilee.



Photo 2 illustrates the ceramic book that was also produced to commemorate the same occasion. There is text on the reverse of both of these ceramics that gives you the relevant information about this event.



Photo 3 shows us the jug that depicts the royal yacht Britannia. The yacht found a new lease of life as a five star tourist attraction after she was decommissioned in 1997 following 44 years at sea. She is now berthed at the Ocean Terminal in Leith, Edinburgh. There is text on the reverse of this jug that gives some of the technical information relating to the Britannia.

Photo 4 is the front image of a jug that was produced in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the deaths of Robert Falcon Scott and his team on their ill-fated Terra Nova

Expedition to the South Pole in 1912. There is text on the reverse of this jug that gives some detail about this event.

Photo 5 is a jug that was produced in celebration of the Olympic and Paralympics Games that were hosted by London in the United Kingdom during 2012.

Photo 6 is another jug that was produced in 2012 and depicts another image of the iconic Concorde, which was decommissioned in 2003 following 27 years of service in both Britain and France.

And now for the ceramics which are new to me but have in fact been around for a while. I'll start with photo's 7 and 8 which are a pair of ceramic books that were issued to commemorate the engagement of prince Charles to Diana Spencer in 1980. Photo 9 is an entirely different one from the wedding of Charles and Diana.

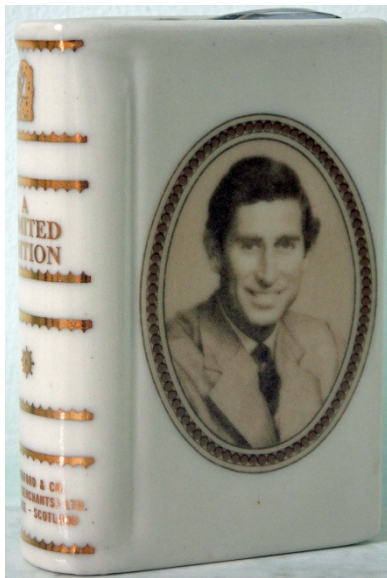


Photo 10 is a commemorative jug from the wedding of Charles and Camilla and Photo 11 is one from Charles and Camilla's wedding reception.



Photo's 12 and 13 are two different images of Diana holding prince Harry.

Photo 14 is an image of Charles and Diana with William and Harry.

Photo 15 is an image taken at the christening of prince Harry and depicts the queen mother holding the infant.



Photo 16 is another image from the same christening, and includes the queen, queen mother, Charles, Diana, William and Harry.

All of these jugs/books are 5cl in size and contain Rutherford's Scotch whisky bottled at 40%vol.

I've decided to deviate slightly from ceramics with my whisky company profile this time, and instead give you the lowdown on a firm that started out as grocers early in the 19th century before moving into the



whisky trade, and ultimately producing a plethora of miniature stoneware decanters containing their Sterlini Scotch whisky. They also produced bulk-size stoneware jugs as well as glass bottles, but for this article we will concentrate only on the wee jugs.



The firm in question is D. & J. MacEwen & Co. Ltd., who started out in 1804 when brothers David and James MacEwen opened their first outlet as grocers and wine and spirit merchants in Broad Street, Stirling. Up till then the family background had been in farming, with many generations of MacEwens working on the Drummond Castle Estates. Over the lifetime of the business they opened branches in Aberfoyle, Bridge of Allan, Callander, Comrie, Crieff, Doune, Dunblane, Fort William, Killin and Inverness. Today, this side of the family business is no more, but it has been replaced by a successful property and investment company still bearing the MacEwen name, and based in Callander. The current directors are Mrs Sheila MacEwen and Mrs I.J.R. MacEwen.

From its inception the business did rather well, attracting all the wealthier customers from in and around the Stirling area. Ultimately they needed to expand, so in 1826 they bought land in the area which is now Port Street in Stirling, and built larger premises to accommodate all the diverse operations of their business. Around this time a third brother, John MacEwen, joined the firm. He was by profession a lawyer, but was persuaded to give this up to enable him to manage the Port Street operation.

In 1838 a new branch was opened in King Street in Stirling, and over the next decade or so three more family members, Daniel, John and Robert MacEwen, joined the firm. Over the following forty years three more branches were opened, Callander in 1857, Killin in 1895 and Aberfoyle in 1898.

Around 1900 a huge fire all but destroyed the Port Street premises, but they were rebuilt, bigger and better than before. The new cellars covered some 3,000 square feet, and the stocks held there included casks of Cambus, Glen Grant, Lagavulin, Talisker and Ben Nevis.



By 1904, they had opened all their outlets with the exception of Comrie, Doune and Inverness, and in this same year the Lord Provost of Glasgow, Sir John Ure Primrose, hosted a centenary celebration dinner for the firm in the Albert Hall, Stirling, which was attended by 180 guests. The following evening a second function was held for all of the staff.

The next major landmark was 1928, when the firm of MacDonald and MacKintosh of Inverness was acquired by MacEwen's. This business was allowed to continue trading under its own name, along with its whisky brand of Clan Chattan.



The last outlet to be opened was in Doune in Perthshire in 1960.

After having said all that, what we as collectors are really interested in is what was produced in miniature, what we already have in our collections, and ultimately what we are still looking for to complete the set.



The following pictorial checklist gives you what is hopefully a comprehensive set of what has been produced over the years. The first two groups (photo's 17 – 24) were the earliest produced and did not display the strength of 70°proof. You will also note that all of the outlets did not have their own jug at this time. The next three groups (photo's 25 – 33) shows the later version, depicting the strength of the contents on each jug, and of course more outlets were represented by this time. You should note that I have been unable to uncover jugs for the outlets at Doune and Inverness, but perhaps someone can confirm whether or not any were produced. Then of course we have the products of Clan Chattan, which must be included if we wish to complete the set. There were three variations of

these, (photo's 34 – 36) two with the MacDonald & MacKintosh name, and the third one which carried the name of D. & J. MacEwen.



Finally, we have the elusive green-topped variations, (photo's 37 & 38) which were produced carrying both the Sterlini and Clan Chattan names. We are left to speculate why they were produced in this format as, apart from the colour change there was also a shape change too, with these ones being flat-sided. Note too that they do not carry the owner's name, nor do they have a strength statement. Were they for export? Were they perhaps a customer special? Were they prototypes? Who knows, but they are the rarest of them all.



For the record, I am on the lookout for the Aberfoyle, Callander and Crieff jugs without the strength statement, and the Bridge of Allan jug with the strength statement. I also need the Clan Chattan green-topped version. If anyone has spares of any of this quintet then I'm sure I can come up with a suitable exchange.

That's your lot till next time, so till then.....

Dave Allen

[illegible]

ADVANCE NOTICE: Italian Miniature Bottle Bottle Show, Sicily, 18-20 July 2014

New Zealand collectors attending will get two nights free of charge at the hotel d'Orange d'Alcantara (On a Bed and Breakfast basis) - Extra nights at 'mates rates.' Plus a Free sightseeing trip and sale table if you need it.

This is a chance to meet collectors from other countries and buy/trade bottles. Contact Giuseppe Savoca for more details: savoca@minibottles.it

NO MORE CZECH MINI SPIRITS?

(This article is based on one by Leos Rousek of the Wall Street Journal)

The Czech Republic has banned the sale of drinks containing more than 20% alcohol, toughening restrictions imposed following a series of deaths caused by toxic bootleg alcohol sold as legitimate drinks to unsuspecting customers.

The ban on hard alcohol is the first in the country, which like many of its neighbors was known for fairly lax regulations on alcohol sales. Many of the local kiosks selling fast-food also offer whisky, vodka or brandy in bottles or plastic shot cups. Alcohol drinking and legitimate home brewing of fruit liquors are common in the Czech Republic.

The ban took effect shortly after 7 p.m. Friday 21st September - limiting the night's bar-goers to consuming beer or wine. Health Ministry spokesman, Vlastimil Srsen, said "It is a blanket ban on sales of distilled liquor with alcohol content of 20% and higher at all shops, restaurants, bars or any other establishments across the entire country." He confirmed the ban would last indefinitely.

The ministry escalated its measures after methanol-laced legitimate bottles started appearing in regular liquor stores. The first known sales of poisonous alcohol were at outdoor markets and kiosks. There were 19 deaths from the tainted drinks as of mid-September, and 27 people remained in critical condition, according to the Health Ministry.

At least one illegal bottling facility, based in a residential basement garage in the Czech eastern city of Zlin, has been found and several individuals arrested, the Interior Ministry said. Some 5,000 liters of illegal alcohol, some containing toxic methanol, were found and impounded in the bottling facility, the authorities said.

Some of the illegal alcohol at the facility was in standard bottles with fake labels of legitimate distillers, with fake or stolen official alcohol tax stamps glued on their screw caps, Health Minister Leos Heger said. Police officials declined to comment on their continuing investigations.

Alcohol industry officials have warned that difficult economic times were shifting demand to kiosks and other establishments selling cheaper and illegal alcohol.

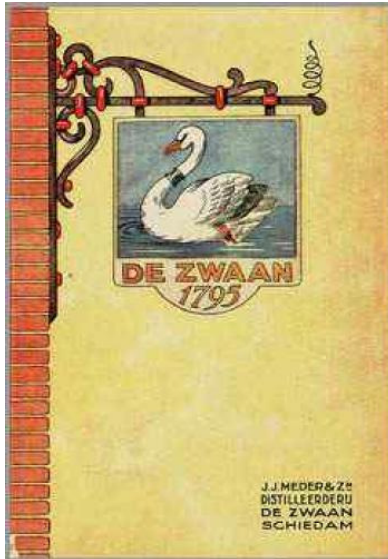
The Czech distillers' union, known as UVDL, has called on the government to ban alcohol sales at kiosks, reduce the volume of the largest retail package of distilled alcohol to three liters from six, and require all shops selling alcohol to use digital cash registers to enable proper sales monitoring for tax officials.

These measures will undoubtedly cause problems for Czech distillers, many of whom issue miniatures. They will also be a problem for the local mini collectors, especially if customs enforces these regulations against personal travelers at the borders.

It will be interesting to see how the WTO reacts to this measure. If the cigarette companies in Aus & NZ can complain to the WTO about unfair practices with plain packets, what complaints can the local distillers make? And then there are organisations like the Scotch Whisky Association and numerous foreign distillers that sell into the Czech market. Good business for the lawyers!

David Smith

MEDER GIN



One of the advantages of running Miniature Bottle Library is that people send you photos, some of which are great to use in miNiZ also. An F. J. Meder from Schiedam sent these photos of their collection of mini Meder Gins (Genever or Jenever in Dutch). It was way back in 1999 that we last featured a 'serious' number of square Dutch gins (from the late Bill Gueho's collection), so let's start with some of those.

The two green bottles are Beste Schiedammer Genever & Beste Brandewijn whilst the two clear bottles are Zwaan Citroen Jenever & Beste Schiedammer Genever.



The next photo shows three old round bottles in lovely condition. These are all cork closure bottles with lead seals. First is a Legygne Vieux Brandy, second is a Gold Liqueur, complete with gold flakes and finally a Cognac.



The picture on the left shows three liqueurs, two in excellent condition and one OK. First is a Kersen Brandewijn, followed by a Cherry Brandy and finally Frambozen Brandewijn.

Starting the next page we have a row of 8 round gins, all in green glass bottles. The first five are all Zeer Oude Genever, the next two Beste Schiedammer Genever and the final bottle is a Jonge Korenwijn Genever. Unfortunately none of these bottles shows the quantity of proof.



To the left we have a round, clear glass, Beste Brandewijn followed by the only mini Meder crock we know about. This is another Zeer Oude Genever. The next two bottles both contain Dry Gin. They are identical (the second label is faded) except that the first is 75°proof and the second 70°proof.

Finally we have a row of 7 bottles showing different bottle shapes, colours and label styles.



From left to right we have Advocaat, Bessen Genever, Creme de Mandarines, Creme de Menthe, Oranje Bitter, Creme de Cacao and Half om Half.

I have used a few bottles from Miniature Bottle Library to complete this article. There are 52 bottles shown in MBL but I am sure there are many more. As usual, if you have any more of these, photos please.

David Smith

AS SEEN ON EBAY #24

We will start with the ridiculous and totally crazy, then onto somewhat more serious stuff.

The Glenfiddich 21 Wedgwood miniature 50ml Limited Edition Commemorative Bottle was made in 1986 for the centenary of Glenfiddich. The seller stated: *"This is an extremely rare and highly sought after collectible as very few of these Wedgwood miniatures were produced. Decanted on Christmas Day, 1986 as a special commemoration to the Centenary celebration of the Glenfiddich Distillery. Although many of the larger decanters were also produced, the miniatures were only sold for a short period at*



Heathrow Airport in 1987. This comes with the original box in excellent condition, and the bottle is perfect, no chips, cracks, crazing or nicks and has been displayed in a proper display case. Please be aware this is the 1986 rare 21 year old, 50ml/5cl 43% ABV version, not the 1991 produced 40% ABV version. This is an incredibly rare piece of art and history and would make a fantastic addition to the finest collections. This is the ultimate want for a scotch whiskey (sic) collector as its unlikely one of this quality will come up again." The seller offered free shipping, yippee! Just pay US\$10,000 ono! Needless to say it did not sell.

Within a few days of the Glenfiddich being offered another collector tried to sell one for £1,000,000. To be fair he stated: *"This isn't worth £1 million but hey, I can do with the money."* He did get 29 offers, all of which were declined.



The item on the left is the magnificent 'Girl in the Moon' stein made in 2001 for the Miller Brewing Company by The House of Wiebrecht in Germany. Yes, we know that this is not a mini but, hey, it's a great piece. The picture of this limited edition stein really does not do it justice. It stands 216mm (8½") tall and 229mm (9") across. It is in mint condition. The winning bid, of 12, was US\$189.49

Hi-Ho Hi-Ho it's off to work we go. Anybody want to buy one of the most sort after mini sets ever produced? The Snow White & the 7 Dwarfs are a set that was made by Casa Vinicola Boccaccio of Italy. Mr. Disney was not happy! The sale of these was

stopped and, supposedly, unsold sets were destroyed. The company did keep selling Snow White, simply as a 'lady' decanter. Question, if Disney stopped CVB selling these shortly after they went on sale, how come they also appear under the Roma label (like this set)? Surprise, Roma is an alternate label of CVB and it is highly unlikely that they would have



started off selling these under two different labels. Actually, Disney had no right to stop CVB selling these as Snow White and The 7 Dwarfs is a traditional fairy tale, not a Disney construct. However, it was probably a wise decision by CVB not to take on the deep pockets of Disney. And I suspect that they sold off unsold stock using the second label. This set failed to sell, by the way, for US\$750 ono. Not surprising as another set failed to sell for US\$299 earlier in the year. (I'll pay US\$250 if anyone has a set to sell - David)



We stick with cartoons for the next two bottles. Hoppety Hopper and Porky Pig are Warner Brothers characters. These were licensed to Alpa of Italy and are part of a set of 12. There are samples of others that, unfortunately, were never produced. Both decanters contain Amaretto. Hoppety Hopper sold for a disappointing US\$4.99 and Porky Pig for US\$9.59 - still not a good price (unless you are the buyer!).

Before we set off on some straights we have three more ceramic minis and two large bottles to show you. I (Peter) found the larger size Rugby Ball on sale during the Rugby World Cup. It is 216mm (8½") tall and marked Findlaters First XV. It contains 15 year old blended Scotch. It also has Gilberts, the (real) ball maker, on each side. It sold for £47.09 after 7 bids.

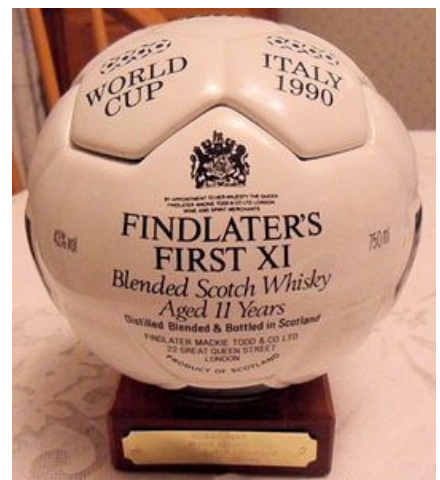
The mini rugby ball (American Football ball if you insist) is empty, unlabelled and may have been filled by Alta, Lush, Manhattan, Meiers or Rosard. US\$16.26 was a very good price.





Sticking with football, but this time the round ball game, we have the Jules Rimet World Cup trophy. This is filled with Kindness Scotch and was made by McLech. There are two versions of this bottle, both of which I (David) have. Neither of them cost me £46. The footballer is from Sadokewin of China and contains XO Brandy. This bottle has been put on sale several times by the same commercial

seller. It normally has a minimum bid of US\$65 but this time had a starting bid of US\$1, as did dozens of other bottles from the same seller. I (David) put in a dozen or so 'cheeky' bids then promptly forgot about them. I should have watched this one as it sold for US\$31.61 and I was the under bidder. Another Findlater's large decanter is the football on the right. As you can see this was made for the World Cup in Italy in 1990. It is filled with 750ml of Scotch at 40%. Both of us are surprised that it sold so cheaply, only £25.99. Even more so as this is a 'special.' It was presented to Tranmere Rovers players in 1992.



To the left we have three Macallan single malt Scotch flasks. The first is a 10 year old, 70 proof, which sold for £46. The second is a 12 year old, 1 $\frac{2}{3}$ fl.oz. at 100 proof. This fetched £56. Finally we have the Macallan-Glenlivet. This is a Gordon & McPhail bottling for the Italian market. It is 15 year old, 43°, 4cl and sold for £69.99.

We start the next page with three more Macallan bottles, this time round ones. The 5cl, 1978 Scotch was bottled in 1996. £56.77 bought it. That's about NZ\$110 - expensive? Read on. The 12 year old has a Hong Kong importer's label. This bottle contains 1 $\frac{2}{3}$ fl.oz. at 75°. £215 bought it - no we have not got the decimal point in the wrong place - read on and weep oh ye Scotch collectors! The final Macallum, which we have little information about, is clearly not one you can pop down to your local bottle store and buy. And at £495 (about NZ\$970) you sure as hell would not want to drink it!



The Johnnie Walker Blue Label tasting set would be a nice addition to any Scotch collector's collection. The 50ml of Scotch was bottled at 40% and the bottle states "Not for Retail Sale." £125.45 bought it.



Old Rhodhu Pure Highland Malt is a nice looking 5cl bottle. At £2.99 you could drink this one. The Glenlivet is another 5cl single malt bottle, this time 18 year old. £47.98 seemed to be a good price (for the seller). The next two Scotch bottles were made in the early part of last century. Gilmour Thomson's contains malt from the Glencaddam distillery. £46.01 bought it. The White Label name from John Dewar & Co. is very well known. This bottle is a particularly old version and deserved the sale price of £63.

To the right we have a nice old Gordon's gin with a clip top. Gins, even old ones, do not command high prices, so £7.05 was OK. The next bottle was described as a very rare Maison Marnay Australian Hospital Brandy. This is a product of Penfolds Wines, a very well known Australian company. Rare or not it went for a minimum bid of £4.99. Finally on the right we have a Remy Martin VSOP Cognac. This was made especially for Air New Zealand. There are 5 different versions of this bottle (4 VSOP & 1 without the quality



shown) plus 2 bottles made for TEAL (Tasman Empire Airlines) the forerunner of Air New Zealand. This one sold for a respectable US\$10.50.

No, these are not minis but, being a Star Trek fan from way back, this set caught my (David) eye. This is a full set of 8 Star Trek replica bottles. Not the full size versions, smaller versions of the regular full sized bottles. They range in size from 190mm (7.5") 117mm (12 ½") tall.



The set includes (from right to left): Ferengi Snail Juice (Deep Space Nine), Vulcan Port (Deep Space Nine), Aldebaran Whiskey (Deep Space Nine), Andorian Ale (Enterprise), Cardassian Kanar (Deep Space Nine), Bajoran Springwine (Deep Space Nine), Risan Wine (Enterprise) & Triskelion Ale (Deep Space Nine). All the labels are made of water proof vinyl. The seller states "It took years to put together this collection of small sized bottles. The standard size bottles are at times very hard to find, these smaller size bottles are even rarer. After 12 bids the set sold for US\$202.50

Next we have two Italians and a frog.

The Dice stack is from Buton of Italy and made in the 1970's. However, I presume it is unlabelled as the seller states "Vintage circa 1915 decanter decorated with lithographed gambling playing cards." This crock of shit fooled



someone as it sold for the US\$75 minimum bid. The frog is from Luxardo, also from Italy of course. This is one of 600 made in 1973. US\$17.28 was not great but not a disaster either. Mammy is from Robj of France, whose bottles are highly sort after. It is often difficult to tell when these come up for sale if the bottle is full size or mini as the mini is an exact replica of the full size bottle. The seller helped us this time with the ruler. She is 4¾", 110mm tall. The mini version is rarer and subsequently US\$625 did not shock us.



Our final four ceramics this time are three Scotches and one that may be. The two books are both from Ruthford of Scotland. The Scottish soldier is from a set of at least 6, each with a different tartan. We know the name of all the others but not this one. Can anyone help? It sold for £37. The next book, titled "A Clipper of 1869," sold for £34.34.

The Glenfiddich mini decanter contains an 18 year old single malt. This is the black version but it also comes in blue and green. £460 bought it - they must have paid extra for the box! Olde Curiosity Shop was made famous by Dickens but this ceramic comes from McLech. It probably contains either Mead or Sherry but may contain Clan Tartan Scotch. The seller does not say which, which may have affected the price as it only fetched £2.92.



As we started with ceramics, we should finish with some straights, so we will start the finish with some American liqueurs. The two Old Mr. Boston, Orange Gin and Mint Gin were made in 1956. They are both 70 proof, 1/10 pint. US\$4 for the pair was far too cheap. The

next four are 1970's bottles from Hawaiian Distillers. The two 53 proof Passion Fruit Liqueurs sold for a similar price to the two Old Mr. Boston, US\$3.99. Bizarrely, the two Okolehao bottles sold for US\$31.11.



Another Old Mr. Boston, is the Rocking Chair Whiskey. This is also from the 1950's. US\$13.99 was OK but not great. Century Bonded is a Bourbon whiskey. We cannot say anything more, except that it sold for US\$6.95. Four Seasons did somewhat better at US\$33.88 after 4 bids. This is another Bourbon, 1/10 pint, 90 proof. Our final Bourbon is 50 Grand. This is another 90 proof whiskey and this time the bottle contains 2 oz. The tax stamp on this bottle states 193? - unfortunately the final digit has been torn off. Did you know that you can date most bottles with US tax stamps, most of which do not have the year on them, using the club web site? The 50 Grand sold for US\$56 by the way.



Finally, four bottles from Leroux. Sounds French but these are US bottles. Sloe Gin and Foamy Top Sloe Gin are both 1.6 oz., 60 proof. A disappointing minimum bid of US\$3.99 bought the pair. The next two did rather better. There were 3 bidders and they sold for a respectable US\$10.50. These are both Anisette bottles The first 64 proof, 1.6 oz. and the second 60 proof, 1/10 pint.

In the words of Warner Brothers cartoons, "That's All Folks"

Peter Bonkovich & David Smith

DATE, TIME & PLACE

Saturday 20th October 2012, 6.00pm Pot Luck Dinner, Ken & Malee Chin's, 29 Norton Park Avenue, Fairfield, Lower Hutt. Telephone: 04 938 1488 E-Mail: Kenchin@ihug.co.nz

Saturday 26th January 2013, 6.00pm Barbecue, David & Rosie's, 11 Trevor Terrace, Paremata. Telephone: 04 233 2997 E-Mail: minizv@gmail.com

February/March Meeting not yet set but there will probably be one as the AGM has been put back to April to avoid the hottest weather in Queensland.

2013 AGM Weekend Brisbane, Australia - 19th-21st April

Remember to book your flights early to get the best deals. Graham & Maree Ramsay, who live in Brisbane, are the weekend organisers - please let them know if you are going to attend: reandgraz@optusnet.com.au

We have been liaising with Graham & Maree with regards to a suitable motel and they have identified three suitable ones in the right area:

TRAVELODGE GARDEN CITY HOTEL www.travelodge.com.au

THE SPRINGWOOD HOTEL www.springwoodhotel.com.au

SPRINGWOOD MOTOR INN No web address but email: rez@springwoodmotorinn.com.au

Provisional Programme:

Friday Evening - Meet and Greet nibbles at Graham and Maree's, 6 Coolana Street, Underwood, Brisbane

Saturday Morning - Visit Peter's (a friend of Graham & Maree) to see his collection of Bundaberg Rum memorabilia

Saturday Lunch - CUB Brewhouse

Saturday Afternoon - 2pm Tour of CUB Brewery, followed by tasting.

Saturday Evening - Dinner (Restaurant collectively decided upon on Friday Evening)

Sunday Morning - South Bank handcraft markets

Sunday Lunch - BBQ at Graham and Maree's

Sunday Afternoon - AGM and planning of further meetings for 2013. Hopefully our Christchurch members can get back to having meetings as the aftershocks seem to have considerably settled down.

The AGM weekends have been very successful. Friday evening and Sunday Lunch are BYO. Tuesday is ANZAC Day so most members attending will want to stay for an extra long weekend.

Get your cheap flights booked now!

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