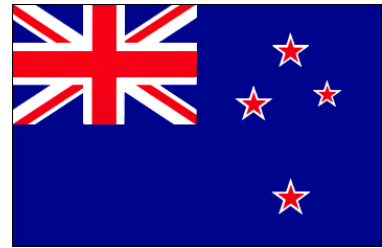


**Issue 99**

**Summer 2013**



# **miNiZ**

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



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

# THIS & THAT & COVER BOTTLE

I will start with three bottles that I could have put in 'As Seen on Ebay' but I wanted to highlight them. I have seen black and white pictures of all three but have never seen any of them on Ebay before, nor, as far as I can recall, have I

seen them in anyone's collection. I was beginning to think that they may have only been samples and never made in any reasonable quantity.



The Tiger is from Famous Firsts and is from a set of 13 (yes I know, a strange number) animals made in 1981. You can see them all on Miniature Bottle Library but only this one is in colour (see later). US\$43.11 bought it

after 9 bids. Even more sort after was the Hummingbird from Lionstone. This decanter contains 1/8 pint Whiskey at 86% and was made in 1973. It sold for US\$51 after 15 bids.



Going To The Fire is from Mount Hope. The full size decanter was made in 1983 so this will date from around that time. It was listed with a minimum bid of US\$77, failed to sell and was re-listed at US\$44 and amazingly again failed to

sell. Amazing that is until you see that the seller wanted US\$68 postage! I would have paid US\$44 but US\$68 postage is just crazy.

I feel sure that you will all be familiar with the Chivas decanters. The red, blue and green versions are quite common and come in a number of variations, notably a punted base. A brown version also exists but this is reasonably uncommon as it has only been sold in two or three countries. It is more common here as New Zealand was one of those. A collector





from Taiwan sent me a photo of this white version for MBL. It has a US importers name on but has not been reported in the US.



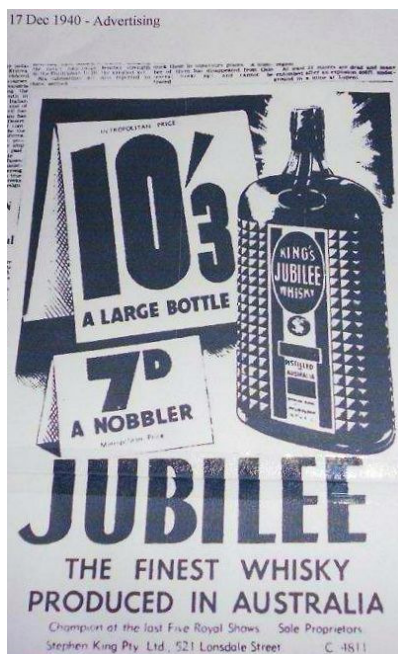
The Buchanan Blend is a Cigar Cutter in the shape of a Whisky Bottle and was sold on Ebay. Note the detail on the enamelled label. I have collected novelties like this most of the time I have been collecting but £56.55 was too dear for me.

The cover bottles were also on Ebay. They are a set of Japanese gods issued in 1965 by Niccolo of Italy. They were also made, a little earlier I think, by Kamotsuru of Japan. I am looking for colour photos of the Japanese set if anyone has these. They sold for a respectable US\$81.

Graham & Maree Ramsay (members from Australia) sent the Jubilee whisky photo and have been trying to find out more about this mini.



*They write "A friend of ours has this bottle so I Googled to see what I could find. I have not been able to find out very much about it at all. I have even contacted Australian Whisky's and they haven't come up with any more information than what I sent them. All I came up with was the 1940 ad shown and an ad in a Melbourne paper dated Wednesday 3rd February 1937:*



*Stephen King Pty. Ltd....wine and spirit merchants, have been appointed by Arthur Bell and Sons Ltd of Perth Scotland as the sole Victorian and Southern Riverina distributors for Bell's Scotch Whisky.*

*I was going to contact Bells in Scotland but as they have changed hands sooo many times I doubt they would have any records as to who this Stephen King was."* Any information anyone?

Graham says that he is looking for any Bundaberg Rum bottles, preferably glass. If you have any for sale/swap he can be contacted at:  
[reandgraz@optusnet.com.au](mailto:reandgraz@optusnet.com.au)

Unfortunately we have no article in this edition from Dave Allen. I have been enjoying Dave's articles and I'm sure you have too. He promises to return in the next issue.

There is a seller on Ebay, Minibeamcollector, who is selling a large collection in miniature decanters. He was the seller of the first two extremely rare decanters above. Just before finalising miNiZ he listed some more great bottles that I

have not seen in colour before.



The Walrus and Buffalo are, of course, two more from the set of 13 animals by Famous Firsts. I can't tell you how much any of these three sold for as the auctions had not finished when this edition was published. The original sale price of the Walrus is readable, US\$10.23 - I bet it sells for a lot more than that. The Collectors Art Meadowlark has a Cologne label. This was made with bourbon in it also but I have so far been unable to find a colour picture for MBL.



I get an email every now and again from **Tan Hoai Nam** (aka Vincent Tan) who runs a Vietnam based store selling miniature bottles, most of them from China:

<http://stores.ebay.co.uk/Vietnam-Minibottles-shop> Not cheap, and be careful of the postage cost, but he sells bottles you will not see elsewhere. The Saxophone and Chinese Dragon are two fine examples of the sort of minis he sells. They are from a Chinese company called Fardeas (sometimes spelt

Fadeas) and each contains 100ml of brandy. Notice the distinctive watermark. I have shown you bottles with this before but without saying where they came from. Another 18 Fardeas bottles can be seen on MBL:

<http://www.minibottlelibrary.com/mb/alpha/fardeas/index.html>

**The next issue is miNiZ100. I would like to do a special edition of 100 pages (email edition only) - so get writing. YES, THAT DOES MEAN YOU!**

There is only one new member this time that I am aware of, Mike Olsen, and he has even sent an article - HINT to most of the rest of you.

Mike Olson, 309 Knopp Valley Dr., Winona, MN 55987, USA

E-Mail: [melosminis@charter.net](mailto:melosminis@charter.net)

*David Smith*



# MELOS MINIS #1

Hi all, I'm Mike Olson and as a new member of the club I thought I would share some of my favourite bottles with you. I collect American and some Canadian whiskeys in straight glass. As almost everybody I started out collecting everything but soon decided to specialise in whiskey. I like most other bottles but didn't have the room to keep them. I was never into ceramics, but my wife talked me into buying them. Big waste of money in my opinion. I soon dumped my scotches when I realized the magnitude of the numbers. My god, where do they all come from?



I am sure you are all familiar whiskeys, so let's get to the bottles. The three I am showing today are known as California Whiskeys. This means they were produced in the state of California during the 1930's. Most of these were only sold locally and are extremely rare.

Bottle number one is Lucky 7 Straight Whiskey from the Distiller Distributing Corp of Los Angeles and San Francisco, as are the next two. Bottle number two is Red Robin Straight Bourbon Whiskey. This is my favourite California bottle and would be a toss-up with Lionel's Buccaneer as my all time

favourite bottle. Last but not least is Green Meadows Straight Kentucky Bourbon whiskey with a great multi coloured label.

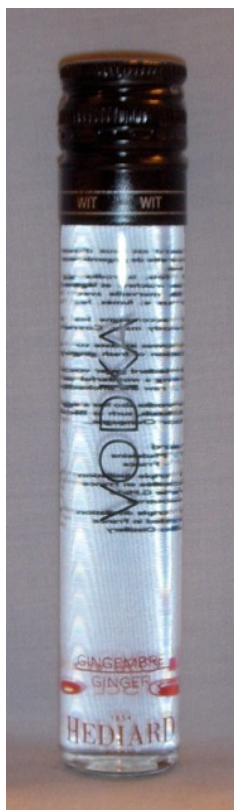


Finally, I have just retired so I have been spending time reading the publications and looking at other collections. Some of them really boggle the mind with sheer number of bottles. I have a niche collection with somewhere around 4000 or so bottles which is just about all I can keep track of.



Until next time . . . . *MELO* . . . .

(Mike wrote Melos Minis for Miniature Bottle Collector for many years - Editor)



## DAVID'S BOTTLES

David Spaid keeps sending us photos of new or interesting bottles (I'm NOT complaining David - promise) but most of the time they end up in 'This & That' or a similar catch-all article. We have so many this time that they deserve an article of their own.

David writes (October email): I just returned a few days ago from London and Paris. Getting bottles in London isn't easy any more as there aren't the bottles or the places. Harrods is a joke only bested by Selfridges. Anyway, in Paris I went to



Maison du Whisky and found many different sets of tube bottles. It seems there is a company in Paris named WIT which bottles for companies, shops, chains, etc. They have produced sets for Dalmore and Compass Box, Maison du Whisky, and Nicholas (a chain of wine/spirit shops). The tubes come in many sizes as I have seen 4cl, 5cl or 50ml, 60ml and 100ml. The only 100ml ones I did see were of an Armagnac brand. As you'll note, the bottles are very nicely packaged but for travelling the weight of each set is a bit of a problem.



The first bottle is a Hediard Ginger Vodka made for the Hediard gourmet store in Paris 50ml - 9 euros. The two Japanese whiskies (Miyagikyo) are definitely made for the French market as they state 10 & 15 ans 40ml - 8 & 10 euros. The first set is six vodkas, 5cl - 48 euros. The second set, the Americas set, is 40ml - 40 euros, the third set was found at Nicholas and these are 60ml - 40 euros. Prices as you can see are high by both New Zealand and American standards. I find the set from Nicholas quite interesting because of the four scotches and then a gin.





Back in miNiZ92 (Autumn 2011) we brought you pictures of some great ceramic vodka bottles from Ochakovskaya of Russia. Here are some more, errrr, maybe not. These 12 ceramics were made at the same pottery as

the Ochakovskaya bottles but these are filled with Scotch in Cyprus, and have been sold on Ebay by a German vendor. What a complicated world we live in! I will let these speak for themselves and you can find more on Mini Bottle Library <http://www.minibottlelibrary.com/mbi/alpha/aneri-investments/index.html> There appear to have been 90 of each made and each contains a single barrel malt Scotch, a different one for each shape as far as we can tell.







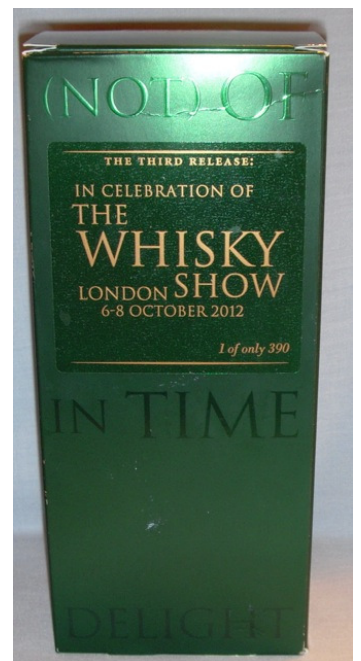
The skull is actually a big bottle sold only in Mexico and done for their Dia de las Muertas or Day of the Dead (Nov 1st) - This would make a great mini.



Not new but very rare are the plain white Dutch man and woman from Rynbende. I had been looking for photos of these for MBL and David obliged.



David writes: This set was produced for the London Whisky Fair which was on October 6-7. The Single Malt Scotch Whisky Society is one of the sponsor attendees and issued



this set of four bottles just for the show. You either had to attend or be a member of the society to buy them. The cost was £52.50 and only 390 sets were produced. For those wondering about the numbers, this is the way the society keeps track of the bottlings. #3 is Bowmore and they've done 194 different bottlings of that single malt. I won't tell you the others...there has to be some mystery in life.





New out in Mexico are these two Sparkle Donkey Tequilas. I suspect something was lost (or gained) in translation.

David writes (Dec): The tequila is only available with purchase of the large bottle. Sweet Revenge is, I believe, a sample.

The Macallan Sir Peter Blake set may be most expensive mini set ever



issued.... £4500. 240 sets were made and they are all sold. There is one 5cl bottle from each of 8 decades to celebrate Blake's 80 years.

The advert on the Macallan site states:

*The godfather of pop art, Sir Peter Blake, celebrates his 80th birthday. To mark this special occasion, a team of specialists have collaborated to create a limited edition art piece; The Macallan and Sir Peter Blake celebrate eight decades. Ranging from 52% to 62% ABV the eight very special whiskies in 5cl miniatures contained in the box offer a journey through the character of The Macallan from the 1930s through to the 2000s.*

*A very limited number of this unique art piece is available for purchase here. Delivery will be by 17th August 2012.*



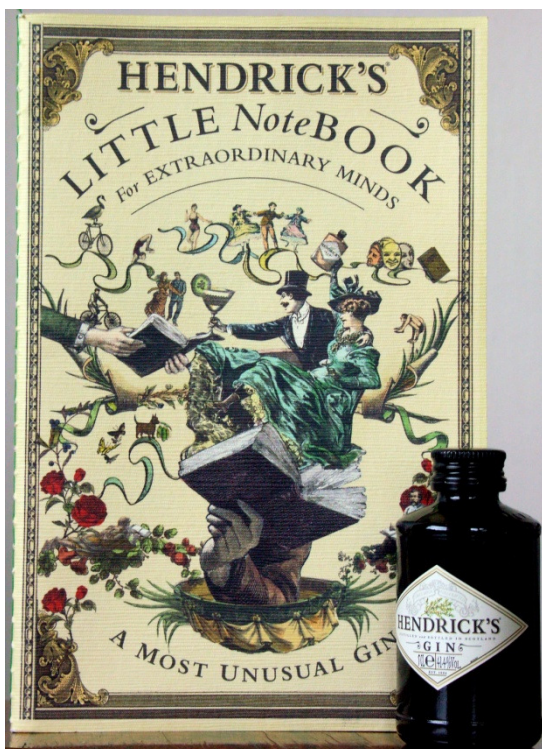
This Sir Peter Blake is, of course, not to be confused with the New Zealand sailor with the same name. This Sir Peter Blake is best known for his design of the sleeve for the Beatles' album *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*. He also designed the cover for the Band Aid single, *Do They Know It's Christmas?* as well as having a huge body of other work.

David sent the other four photos without explanation, except to say that they are new, so I will let them speak for themselves.





*Dauids Spaid & Smith*



# HENDRICK'S GIN

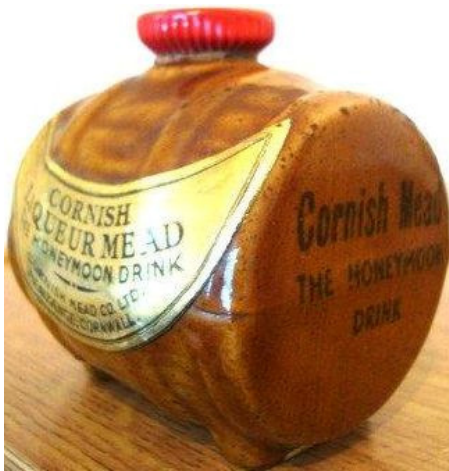
In response to David Spaid's question on what interesting gins have you found I put forward the bottle on the left. It comes from Scotland and is produced by William Grant and Sons Limited. It comes in a black glass bottle 90mm tall and 89mm in diameter. Not only is the bottle different so are the ingredients which include cucumber and rose petals. The alcohol content is 41.4%. The adverts are also a bit different being a cross between Monty Python and Heath Robinson. The William Grant website is worth a visit as they have a few unusual bottles. Whisky collectors do not get excited about the Gordon Highlander bottle as it is only sold in countries such as Columbia and does not come in miniatures. I have a couple of doubles of the Hendricks so if anyone wishes to swap one for a whisky, cognac or Spanish sherry please let me know.

Frank Wynn



## AS SEEN ON EBAY #25

We will start with some ceramic bottles from Britain. The cricket ball is from the 1960's and was made by WLS of Torquay. It sold for £26 - a very good price for the vendor. The soccer ball did not sell for such a good a price, fetching only £8.26. WLS have also made a bowling ball (and pins) and a golf ball.



If I had been the seller of the barrel I would have been very unhappy. This sold for a minimum bid of £0.99. It comes from the Cornish Mead Company, which is based in the county next door to WLS.

We go across the English Channel (or Pas de Calais) to Garnier of France for the three cards. These date from 1971 and each card has three different colour backs, Red, Brown and Blue. Some people mistake the red and brown as the brown is on the red side. The Jack and Queen are said to have a Brown Red back, which I take to be the brown, and the King a blue back. The J&Q went for US\$2.76 each and the King for US\$11.95



Burns' Cottage contains Robbie Burns Scotch. £16.00 seemed a reasonable price.

We have seen the McCormick Shriner Circus Set before in miNiZ. These were

made in 1984 for the Shriner charitable organisation. If you bought the full set you could also get a Circus Tent to display them. US\$286.11 bought these - a good price for the seller without the tent.



I'm sure that the seller of the Chiisai Bin Teddy Bear was very pleased with the sale price of US\$42.99. The Chiisai Bin Poodle did not sell as well but US\$27.11 was still a respectable price.



The Bear is a rarely seen mini from Japan. Some Isiah bottles are relatively common but some less so. The bear would be one of the hardest to obtain so the US\$62.99 price was not surprising.



Linfa Salus bottles from Italy are not very common and this rather uninspiring pillar is probably even less common than most as there was only a poor quality photo of it on MBL before this one turned up. The Cazanove jug is from France and was sold in the US in 1936 - again, not common (and less so with a full compliment of labels). So why did they sell for minimum bids of US\$0.99 each? Simple answer, POSTAGE. Frankly

we are surprised that they sold at all as the seller wanted US\$39.50 each to post internationally. Postage is expensive but nowhere near this dear. David Spaid recently sent me (David Smith) 4 ceramics and the postage cost was US\$14.34 for the four.

Liqueurs rarely sell well so I am sure that the seller was happy with US\$10.50 for the two Leroux Claristine bottles - especially as one is clearly empty and missing it's cap.

The only tequila we have for you this time is Los Arango. This is in a nice blue bottle with a leather label. Even so, US\$22 seems a very good price for the seller.





It's about time we had some whiskies.



The Geo. Cohn & Co. flask is from the 1890's. We suspect that the white paint on the embossed writing is not original but this bottle still went for US\$32. The next three flasks are all from the 1930's. Blue Ribbon from George Benz Sons is a bourbon at 1/10 pint, 100 proof - US\$36.67 for this one. Bellepoint Bourbon was bottled by Labrot & Graham. This flask was well sort after as it sold for US\$318. A mere \$70 bought the next flask, Clarke's Rye from Arrow Distilleries of Illinois. Our final bottle. John Smith Bourbon Whiskey, is in fact half way between a bottle and flask in shape. We have dated this bottle to 1936 using the tax stamp and information on the club web site. US\$20.50 bought it.



Next we have two very different round American Whiskey bottles and two very different outcomes. Kentucky Tavern Straight Bourbon Whiskey was bottled in bond in 1952. Clearly this is the nicer looking of the bottles and is in great condition for one 60 years old. \$2.08 bought it! Laurel Springs Rye, from J.J. Conrad Grocer Co, was well sort after with 8 bids. US\$350.87 bought it.

Finally, two Scotches. Tormore 10yo is said to be over 20 years old, £109 bought it. The Springbank flask 12yo Campbelltown Malt is 1960's - £79 for this one.

\*\*\*\*\*More next time\*\*\*\*\*

*Peter Bonkovich & David Smith*



# Ken's WHISKY



# CORNER



I found this set of Irish malt whiskies shortly after our AGM in Wellington. They are produced by Tyrconnell and come with a personalised whisky nosing glass. The set consists of the standard Tyrconnell single malt whisky (40% by vol.), a 10 year old single malt whisky aged in port cask (46% by vol.), and a 10 year old single malt whisky age in sherry cask (46% by vol.). The set cost approximately \$35.



I found this Australian whisky at the Wig's Cellar in Melbourne in May whilst I was on holiday. Tom Cobb Australian Spirit is no longer made but was produced in the Moonshine Valley, Forest Glen, Queensland. It's a plastic 50ml mini 40% by vol. I do have a couple spare for trading in anyone is interested.





While attending a conference in Dunedin recently, I purchased the set of three single malt Glendronach Scotch whiskeys from Castle MacAdam Wines in lower Stuart St, Dunedin. They come in an unusual triangular box. There is a 12yr old original (43% vol.), a 15yr old “Revival” (46% vol.), and an 18yr old “Allardice” (46% vol.). The set was not cheap at \$55.

The next lot of whiskeys come from Loch Fyne Whiskies in the UK from where Peter Bonkovich and I made a joint order. I was pleased to find I had bought the matching 21yr old “Parliament” Glendronach whisky. (£9.50)



The whisky above is the latest from Glencadam. It is a 10yr old single malt 46% by volume and comes in an attractive tube. (£6.50). The latest offering from Glen Garioch is the “1797 Founder’s Reserve”. It is 48% by volume but I don’t think there’s any 1797 whisky in it though! (£5.90)



This next whisky is the latest from Glenfarclas. It is a 40yr Highland single malt at 46% by volume. It also comes in an attractive tube. At £29.90 expensive !!

The next are some of the blended scotch whiskies I purchased from Loch Fyne. There's no guarantee that you are going to see these in NZ so I didn't risk it and purchased them while I had the chance.

The first is a Teacher's whisky which comes in a 50ml plastic bottle. (£3.50). The next bottle is the latest mini from Glayva containing its standard 35% whisky liqueur. (£4.50)



The next bottle is the well-known cut glass decanter-shaped bottle containing The Antiquary Scotch whisky. It contains 12yr old whisky at 40% by volume. It has a completely new label on it.(£4.90). The next is from Whyte & Mackay and contains special blended Scotch whisky 40% by volume (£3.90).

The last bottle "The Snow Grouse" is produced by the makers of "The Famous Grouse". It is a blended grain scotch whisky at 40% by volume (£4.90).





*Ken Chin*

The next two minis are from Kilchoman. One contains the “Inaugural 100% Islay Release” (50% by vol.) and the other contains the 2006 Vintage release (46% by vol.) They cost £8.90 each.

The plastic Dewar’s mini is something I just found at local outlet the other day. It is 50ml at 40% by volume. (\$5). It has a Lion Nathan import label on it so it is classified as a NZ mini.

The final item is not a mini but a 275ml bottle of NZ whisky “Old Hokonui” which has been developed at the Southern Distilling Company in Timaru, NZ, and then finished and bottled at the Hokonui Moonshine Museum in Gore, NZ. The whisky is based on an original recipe held at the museum. (\$27.50)

# DATE, TIME & PLACE

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2013, 6.00pm** Barbecue, David & Rosie's, 11 Trevor Terrace, Paremata.

Telephone: 04 233 2997 E-Mail: [minizv@gmail.com](mailto:minizv@gmail.com)

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2013, 12.01pm** Barbecue & AGM, Colin & Di Ryder's, 20 Prospect Terrace, Johnsonville. Telephone: 04 4784391 E-Mail: [rydercj@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rydercj@xtra.co.nz)

The rest of the programme for 2013 will be decided at the AGM and posted on the web site.

**Please note that the AGM has moved from Brisbane to Wellington and from April to February.**

Unfortunately only two NZ members were prepared to go to Brisbane, despite this option having been very well received last year. In the club constitution we have a quorum of a minimum of 5 members for the AGM. Our sincere apologies go to Graham & Maree Ramsay who have been organising this for us.



## miNiZ100 - 100 pages

**No this is not a joke but it does require some work by all members to achieve our goal.**

There will be a cut-down 20 page version for those of you who get paper copies of miNiZ but, if we have or you give us your email address, we will also email the 100 page edition to you.

We want EVERY member to be represented in this special edition in some way. If you want to write a 20 page article, go ahead, however a page or two from each of you would be really appreciated. As usual, if you are not confident of doing it on your own, just send me some photos and the gist of what you want to say and I will format it for you.

If you do not feel that you can write an article - you are wrong! How did you get started collecting? What is your favorite bottle or Set? What bottles do you dislike? What unusual places have you obtained bottles? Which bottle got away? What were your bottle related experiences in the Christchurch earthquakes? (or other disasters). Why do you hate the editor? (see below). Everybody can (and should) contribute.

Suggestions for what to put on the cover are also welcome.

Rosie (my wife) has suggested I email you weekly to tell you of progress with articles (or lack thereof) and generally badger you to do more. I won't be quite so cruel but every couple of weeks should do - to begin with!

**The deadline for articles, snippets, abuse etc is the end of March.** This is fixed as I need to get miNiZ100 out before mid-April as after that I will be out of NZ for six or seven weeks.

**GET WRITING**

*David Smith* miNiZ editor