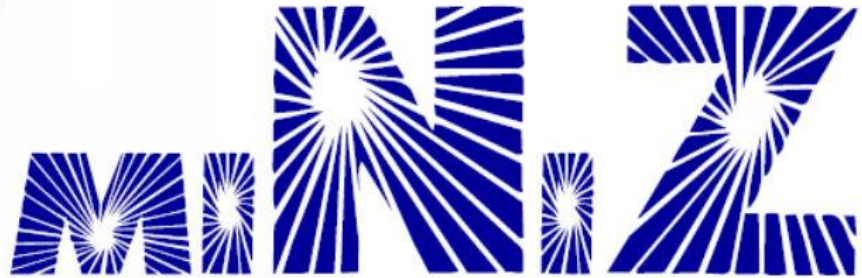


Issue 131 - Summer 2022



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THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW ZEALAND MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



Australasia's International Miniature Bottle Club



NEW NEW ZEALAND, THIS & THAT

As far as I am aware there have been no new NZ bottles in the last three months. I would be happy to be proved wrong by you sending me a photo of any I have missed seeing.

The cover photo shows a very exclusive Advent set – see facing page.

Low and no alcohol drinks are becoming a trendy. WhistlePig has released a 6yo no (well, almost no) alcohol rye 'whiskey' or as they call it 'non-whiskey' known as Devil's Slide. Said to be "the world's first 100 percent rye aged non-whiskey," the limited edition WhistlePig PiggyBack Devil's Slide, which is less than 1 proof, is aged for six years before being "undistilled" at the WhistlePig Distillery. The resulting drink is described as "uniquely quaffable" while also maintaining the original's "bold, complex flavour." WhistlePig also suggests it's perfect for breakfast! The drink is being sold for January only at this stage with all profits to charity. No mention of a mini but if there was, would you whiskey collectors collect it?



I am sad to report the death of John Sullivan. John was known as 'The vodka Guy' and had a very impressive collection well before vodka became trendy. He also had other great bottles which he has been gradually selling off over the last few years due to his ill health. John was very knowledgeable, opinionated, but universally liked. Check out his web site, which is still on-line as I write this: <http://www.minivodkaguy.com/>

Following my entirely justified rant in miNiZ130 I am glad to say that there has been a response, albeit a small one given the size of our membership now. I wish to thank all the contributors to this edition. Other members can contribute, no matter the size of your collection, where you live, or how long you have been collecting. As with Pieta (see back page) something is better than nothing. This was Pieta's second contribution, two more than the majority of the membership. To paraphrase a former US President "Yes You Can." Enough said, let's work together to make miNiZ132 a 30+ page edition again.

Ron Gabbard is both a member here and the editor of both the Midwest Miniature Bottle Club and the Northwest Miniature Bottle Club newsletters. These are the two remaining US Mini Bottle Clubs and the membership, like membership of most clubs these days, is declining and the remaining membership is getting older. The MMBC is a particularly important club in that it hosts the biggest show\convention\sale worldwide in St Louis each year. This attracts, in a normal year, collectors from anything from 10 to 20+ countries. Like ourselves the MMBC is a true international club, in fact the current president (Rotem, also a member here) lives in Israel.

The MMBC newsletter is somewhat similar to miNiZ and Ron has the same problems I do, he struggles to get articles. Their latest newsletter has just been published and it was mainly written by Ron. Despite this he always gives us a plug and appeals for articles for miNiZ, and often writes some himself (as in this edition). Thank you Ron.

Now, check out the MMBC website <http://www.midwestmbc.com/> and join if you like the look of it. It's not free but then few worthwhile things are (NZMBC is one of the exceptions that proves the rule). The members only area has access to back copies of all their newsletters going back decades. Membership enquiries to: petegabbard@msn.com (just keeping it in the family!). Then write them an article, whether you join or not (maybe an article as to why you are not joining? 😊) and send to Ron: gabspace@msn.com

And finally the Elephant in The Room (unfortunately not one giving me fertilizer for the garden). Covid has set us all back, whether we have caught it or not. It has not made bottle collecting a priority and I understand that. Things will get better eventually (there are 2 universal Covid vaccines in the pipeline - USA & Japan – that should give lifetime protection against any version/variant). In the meantime, stay safe.

David Smith

ADVENT MINIS

Each year there seems to be more and more Advent Calendars containing booze, many of them with miniature bottles. When I decided to write this article it was just after Christmas, so too late to order any, but note to self, next year.....

I had bookmarked an article earlier in the year about an Advent Calendar from 67 Pall Mall, an exclusive London wine club (with a branch in Singapore). The calendar is in the shape of their London building and each numbered 75ml bottle has a QR code that links to a full description of the wine in it. That image is on the cover. Good luck with getting one of these calendars though!

As I sat down to write this I did not expect to find a New Zealand mini bottle advent calendar, but I did. The only Reefton Distilling Co. mini I knew of we have featured before, the 50ml Little Biddy Gin. There are 24 bottles in the calendar and I will let the web site describe them:

Contains 24 x 50ml bottles consisting of international award-winning Little Biddy Gins – Classic, Pink, Gold Label and Black Label, Little Biddy Gin – Christmas, our new limited edition Little Biddy Gin – Snow, Wild Rain Vodka and Reefton Distilling Co. Blueberry & Tayberry Liqueurs.

Unfortunately there are no pictures but, bugger, how do I now get my hands on these other NZ bottles?



Supermarket Aldi in the UK teamed up with Haysmith's gins and they gave us a picture. Presumably you get four of each.



Danish indie rum bottler 1423 produced the 2021 edition of its 24 Days of Rum Calendar. Filled with 24 different 20ml miniature bottles of rum, from 24 different countries. The full list



should be mouth watering for rum collectors everywhere: English Harbour 5 Year Old, Clément VSOP, Plantation XO Barbados 20th Anniversary, Pusser's Blue Label, Spirits of Old Man Rum Project Three - Dark Expression, Savanna 5 Year Old, Admiral Rodney Rum - HMS Royal Oak, El Pasador de Oro XO, Ron Abuelo XII Two Oaks, Ron La Progresiva 13, Plantation Isle of Fiji, Cihuatán Xaman XO, Inner Circle Green Navy Strength, Ron Esclavo Gran Reserva Overproof, Arcane Extraroma, Worthy Park 109, Wild Tiger Rare Blend, Naga Pearl of Jakarta, Samai Gold Rum, William Hinton 5 Year Old, Rum Nation Peruano 8 Year Old, Cane Island

Thailand Single Estate 5 Year Old, Ron Carúpano 6, Constellation's Rum Polaris. I'll leave you to work out what country each rum is from.



There are a number of 24 x 30ml advent calendars from Drinks By The Dram. These include Gin, Whisky, Vodka, Bourbon & Tequila. In each case all 24 bottles are different.



There were in fact 14 in total!



If you are into UK craft gins, including variations, then the Craft Gin advent calendar is for you. The usual 24 bottles but bottles all the same shape and the same black cap, unlike many of the usual commercial versions of these minis.



You could describe the Bailey's advent calendar as the poor man's advent calendar. It only has 12 bottles and you get four each of only three different flavours.

Another advent calendar with only 12 bottles is from Johnnie Walker. This time you do get two of each and a couple of the minis are in the 'hard to find' category.



US retailer, Marketview Liquor, sold a number of mini advent calendars but all the spirit versions are in the same box. Varieties include vodka, whiskey, top shelf spirits, and, differently boxed, wine. 12 x 50ml bottles in each, all different.

At last, another calendar showing the bottles properly. The Crown Royal whisky tasting calendar is from Top Shelf Wines & Spirits from the US. It contains two each of the 6 bottles shown.



I'm a Crown Royal fan and would have loved this calendar.



From UK retailer Not On The High Street comes this set of 12 x 35ml advent flavoured gins packed in aluminium bottles. Unusually they do not stipulate the maker/s.



The UK based The Really Good Whisky Company produced our final advent calendar with 25 x 30ml Glass Bottles of good quality and interesting whiskies.

I could keep going on and on with these as there is now so many out there. Get looking early next year and you may be able to snag some unusual minis to add to your collection.



David Smith

RUM : RON

I do not know when we last had an article on rum so, just for a change, here goes.

One advantage is that all the rums mentioned have miniatures that are available in New Zealand, except the last one but it is a good story. Whilst not on the scale of the recent gin explosion or the price increases of some single malt whiskies, rum is making a comeback. There are a few four figure bottles around and one gets a mention in the article.

Pussers Rum takes its name from the Royal Navy sailors term for the purser. He was in charge of the daily rum allowance which ceased on 31st July 1970, but carried on longer in the New Zealand navy. One of the reasons it stopped was that drunk sailors could cause a lot of damage with the intricate machinery that ships carry these days.

A United States marine, Charles Tobias, kept nagging the admiralty for ten years asking for the recipe and finally they agreed. The rum first appeared in 1980 and Pussers pay a royalty to naval charities. The most common miniatures are the two ceramics shown here. There is also a straight bottle and a 15 year old. Alcohol levels vary from 86.5 proof to 95.5 proof.



You can still buy the original navy rum (they had big stocks). It goes under the name Black Tot Last consignment. It will cost you around NZ\$3000.00 a bottle. Both rums were made in Guyana. Black Tot Day was the day the rum ration ceased.

The Kraken is a mythical monster similar to a giant squid. It was said to wrap its tentacles around a ship and drag it down to the seabed. It probably came about by sailors talking about the large squid they had seen. As the newsletter has an educational bent (amazing the number of meanings a simple four letter word can have) I can confirm the correct term is octopuses and not octopi. The rum was launched in 2010 in America and has since spread world wide. The rum comes from Trinidad and has eleven spices added to it.

The Pirates Grog rum is full of mystery. The label states it is an aged Honduras rum but there are no distilleries in Honduras. The rum is produced in various Caribbean countries and the brand is owned



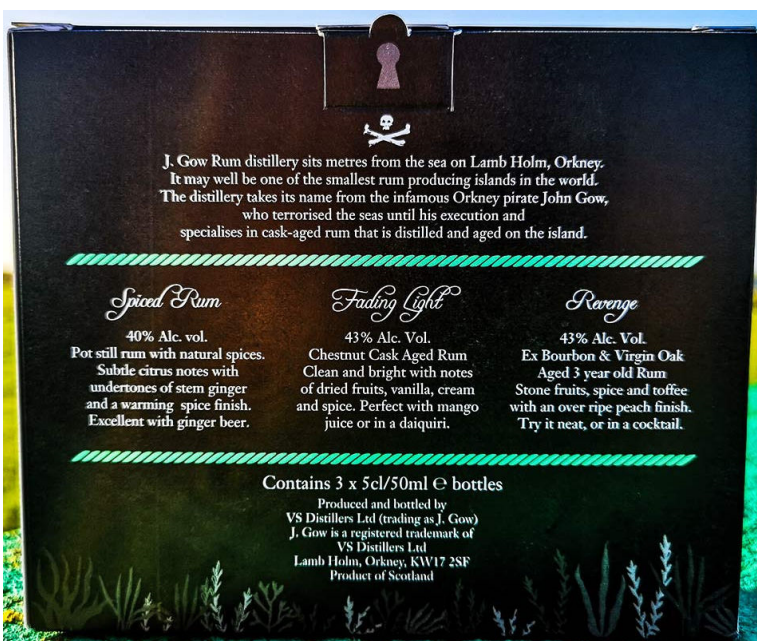
by an English couple Gareth and Beth Noble. It was launched in 2014. The miniature is made with thick glass and has an embossed bottom if you like that sort of thing.

Diplomatico Reserva Exclusiva comes from Venezuela. To clear things up, the fellow pictured on the label, Don Juancho Nieto Melendez, has nothing to do with the distillery. He happened to live close to the distillery site but died before the distillery was built in 1959. Maybe the owners thought he would add a bit of class to the label. This appears to be one of the rare occasions where the contents match the quality of the bottle. The experts say this rum offers great value for money so why not try it but do not drink from your miniature.



J Gow Spiced Rum comes from the Orkney Islands. I did not know they grew sugar beet up there. One person who did come from there was the pirate John Gow. So evil was Gow that when he was captured in 1725 and taken to London he was hung twice to make sure he was dead. They then tarred him and left him hanging in the river Thames for three tides just to make doubly sure. V S Distillers are a new company. They have some rums aging in casks but i do not know where they get their base material from. As with many start up distilleries they need cash flow. They have taken some younger rum and added a few local ingredients to produce this spiced rum. They do produce miniatures but you may have to go to the Orkney's to pick one up. <https://jgowrum.com/shop/> Minis available singly or in a pack of three.

I hope you have enjoyed this article as we will have another one in the next newsletter.



Frank Wynn

THE 2021 MMBC SHOW

First an Overview



After skipping the 2020 show due to the Pandemic, the 2021 show was postponed from April until September hoping that things would be back to normal (or at least close) by then. Well things were not back to normal but the show still went on. Despite travel restrictions we still had 3 people come from out of the country to St. Louis for the show. Jose Escobar made the trip from Colombia, Mauricio Pons came from Mexico and Rotem Ben came from Israel. We had a couple of last minute cancellations or that international total would have been a little higher. It also didn't help that there were travel restrictions preventing many Canadian collectors from attending. Even with the reduced international collectors and fewer collectors from within the U.S., I would call the show a success.

It was strange to me wondering through the lobby Thursday evening and especially Friday at the lack of people I saw. Typically you will run into a dozen or more people either sitting in the lobby visiting or passing through. Prior to the time of the board meeting Rotem, Pete and I saw 2. At the board meeting we learned of some last minute cancellations and that (before those cancellations) there would be 18 vendors and about 30 tables for the show. Normally there is 45-50 tables depending on the year. At the meeting we had about 1/2 the normal number but still had 50+ items for the annual auction. We had set up a zoom meeting and had 1/2 dozen or so people sign into that. With fewer people there was also less bidding on auction items, although there were quite a few



nice things in the auction, it felt like there were more buybacks on some of the more valuable items.

There was more visiting going on as we had not seen these bottle collecting friends in over a year and everything was done much earlier than usual, which meant more people getting together in the hotel bar afterwards. The next day show set up was pretty much as usual with some dealing going on just fewer tables and the show had its early morning rush (not much of one though) and then died down in the afternoon. The hospitality suite was much emptier than normal (which made it easier to have conversations) and Sunday's show was shorter than usual with most people packed up by 11. I think Pete and I were the only people from the show that also spent Sunday night at the hotel.

Now My Show Experience



My show started before I even got on the plane to St. Louis. I received a phone call from the Tel Aviv airport, more specifically from the duty free shop. Rotem had found a travel exclusive pack of 3 Talisker Single malts. A picture followed and did I want him to pick me up one. Why yes I did. While on the plane I spent time texting with Rotem as he had arrived in St. Louis and was waiting our arrival. Once we got in we met up went for dinner in the Westport complex then decided to head out and go bottle hunting prior to our normal bottle hunting day Friday. Went to a Total wine and Pete found a vodka he needed, we headed back to

the hotel and exchanged bottles we had brought for each other. At this point I had already added about 25 bottles to my collection from what Rotem had brought me.

Next morning we started with a strange request, would it be possible to stop at Trader Joes to get some things for Rotem to take back to his wife. Sure, so we found a trader Joes and then went to breakfast. We noticed a liquor



store next to breakfast place but it was closed. We headed out to Lukas liquors (a store that used to be popular to get minis) since it was one of the few stores that opened at 9. I found a new compass box presentation (I later discovered that 2 of the labels had changed also) and Pete picked up a couple of bottles. We then went to another store we had luck at and I found a bourbon I had not seen before (and it was \$1) so I picked up 6. Pete also picked up a couple of cheap bottles. After a stop at target to get toys for Rotem's kids we headed back to another store near the hotel that we have previously had luck at. Pete again found a couple of things. We decided to go to the store that was next to where we had breakfast. I found 3 Amrut Indian whiskies in tins that I didn't have a nice Glenrothes set, some Chivas 13 (Manchester edition) and Highland Park Magnus (the last 2 I already had but the prices were ridiculously low). We then headed for another branch of this store (that we had visited before). There we found Ole Smokey flavored bourbons on sale for \$1 each and 5 Johnnie Walker Green Label (new bottle). We felt so good about this chain (they have 3 locations in the area) we headed for another one. This one was a disappointment, they had a decent selection, but nothing that we had not already seen. After a stop for lunch at a favorite St. Louis BBQ place we headed back to the hotel, having avoided the bad part of St. Louis for the first time in years.



Made it back to the board meeting and that was the first indication of who we might see at the show (we had only seen 2 others prior to this). The board meeting was over earlier than usual (we actually started a little early) so we had a chance to eat before everyone else showed up for the meeting. When people started coming in, it was obvious there was going to be fewer than normal. Some of the tables were 1/2 full and even though we ordered food for less than normal there was lots of it left. I was surprised of the quality of auction items (usually there are some "junk items" that people are just trying to dump at auction). The bidding didn't get crazy on anything that I remember. I got a set of whiskies that were new to the show and it seemed like those that did bid got good deals on what they got.

Everything was done by about 8:30 and a bunch of us ended up meeting in the Hotel Bar. A group of us did get to meet a drunk lawyer from Florida that spent about 15 uncomfortable minutes entertaining us with her views on Women and the Family law cases. Oh did I happen to mention she would have embarrassed a sailor with her language and actions. But it was uncomfortably entertaining. Before the bar, Seva had brought bottles he was holding for me and I came to the realization I had over 50 bottles FOR MY COLLECTION and the



show had not started (I have gone through entire shows and added less than 20 bottles to my collection).



Next morning we set up for the show and the fun began. Normally for the show I spend a bunch of time trying to figure out what to bring, flying in I have a limited amount I can bring and it is always a guess as to what will sell. I try to bring a little bit of variety along with anything new I might have. This year I only had 1 new “exclusive” bottle and that was a glass Pau vodka I had found (and only seen) in Hawaii (everywhere else including some of the stores in Hawaii it was plastic) so other than that I was at a loss. I grabbed what I thought would sell and then took some other things that normally don’t sell but you never know. This year the bottles I expected to sell, did not and the bottles that normally don’t sell, I sold them all. I was able to find some nice bottles

(plus some killer Macallan bottles I had requested from a collector and forgot they were being brought for me) in all I added over 100 bottles to my collection. I have heard that from other collectors that had attended the show too, maybe with fewer people there was less competition for some of the nicer bottles.

Adding to the show was a group from the Midwest that are part of a Facebook group called MAC, they mainly collect Crown Royal but are open to other things. They came to the show and also had the chance to get together for their own function and plan on attending again next year. That added between 5-10 new people at the show. The other noticeable thing was the hospitality suite on Saturday night normally there are 30-40 people in the room making it standing room only and very noisy. This year there was 10-12 and so you could easily have conversations. Sundays at the show have gotten shorter and shorter over the years. It used to be considered bargain day when you could go and make some great deals, you still can but by 11:00 pretty much everyone was packed and gone. We moved next year’s show to June 10-12 so that there is more time between shows. Hopefully next show things will be such that it is easier to travel and we can have more attendees.

Ron Gabbard



SCOTCH CORNER



A few months ago, my son Jeffrey had to attend a funeral in Christchurch. While he was there, I asked him to pop into the Whisky Galore whisky store to see what miniature bottles they had for sale.

Because there were so many on sale, he was able to photograph them all and I was able to order what I did not have back at home. For a reasonable cost Whisky Galore will ship them to you.

The last time I bought bottles from here was when the club held it's AGM in Christchurch, the weekend before the earthquake took place.

The box from Kilchoman is a tasting collection of four of their Islay malts in the form of cute 20ml flask glass miniatures along with a small whisky glass. The whiskies are Machir Bay 46%, Sanaig 46%, Islay 10th edition 50% and Fino Sherry matured 46%. This is good value at \$33.

The Kilchoman Sanaig also comes as a standard 50ml miniature in their trademark blue (in this case lilac) presentation box. Cost \$14.



Whisky Galore have several other tasting/presentation packs for sale. This one from Glenallachie consists of three barrel-shaped 50ml miniatures containing Speyside Single Malt scotch whisky.

There is a 12yr old 46%, and a 15yr old 46%.

The third bottle is Glenallachie's award winning blended scotch whisky a branded MacNair's "Lum Reek" peated blended malt scotch whisky 46%. Cost\$46.



This tasting collection is from Loch Lomond consisting of three 50ml Highland single malt scotch whiskies. Loch Lomond's leading malt whisky is Inchmurrin

The tasting set consists of a 12yr old 46%, an 18yr old 46%, and Madeira wood finished whisky 46%.

Cost @ \$40



The third tasting set is from Glen Scotia and contains three 50ml Campbeltown single malt whiskies.

The first mini is a Glen Scotia cask strength at 54.2%.

The second mini is a 15yr old 46% matured in American oak barrels.

The third mini is labelled as "Double Cask" 46% and is also matured in American oak barrels. Cost \$36.



These are some of the single minis from whisky Galore.

The Edradour 10yr old Highland single malt scotch whisky comes in it's trademark tube, 50ml at 43%. The label is a major variation set on a white background. Cost \$14.



The Ballechin Highland Single Malt Scotch Whisky is more heavily peated whisky produced by the Edradour distillery. It is 10 years old at 46%. Cost \$14



The Cotswolds Single Malt whisky is not Scotch, it is the first ever distilled in the Cotswold region of England. It is 50ml at 46%, and is aged in first-fill bourbon and ex-red wine casks. It is a bit pricey at \$19.



The mini from (Port) Askaig is an Islay Single Malt Scotch Whisky 100% proof at 57.1%. Cost \$10.



These two minis were bought for me by a close friend who was doing business in Tauranga. He bought them at "High Q" Liqueur outlets in Hamilton and Tauranga.

The Pig's Nose mini is a blended scotch is 50ml at 40%. It has a different depiction of the pig on the label. Cost @ \$14.



The Sheep Dip mini is a blended malt scotch whisky 50ml at 40%. It has a major label variation with a white background. Cost @ \$18.



The Balvenie tasting collection consists of a 12yr and 17yr old Doublewood single malt whiskies, and a 14yr old Caribbean Cask whisky. All are 43%. Price \$40.



The next two items I purchased at Centre City around Xmas time 2020.

The mini from Monkey Shoulder was made for the Christmas season and is a 30ml mini set in a plastic bauble for hanging up on the Christmas tree. The mini is glass. (There are many more variations of these baubles. I have a Ciroc Vodka and a red boxed Bulleit Bourbon, shown below – Ed.)



The Black Bottle blended scotch mini is 50ml at 40%. It differs from previous versions by being a barrel-shaped bottle with a major label variation in black and white. Cost \$6.20



I purchased these miniatures which came from Centre City Wine and Spirits in Waring Taylor St, Wellington a few months ago. The Triple Pack from Tomintoul contains three 50ml bottle at 40%. There are a 10yr old, 16yr old and a 21yr old Speyside Glenlivet single malt scotch whiskies. It is/was priced at \$49.99.

However, the 25yr old Tomintoul which I did not have was a shocker at \$40. I then checked on-line the price in the UK cost and it converted to approximately to same price. After that, I didn't feel quite so bad.



This set of Johnnie Walker minis was purchased at the duty free store at Wellington Airport just prior to our first Covid lockdown Feb 2020 while flying to Melbourne for a holiday (remember those?).

On this occasion, Customs made it clear that one miniature was equivalent to one standard bottle in our duty free quota.

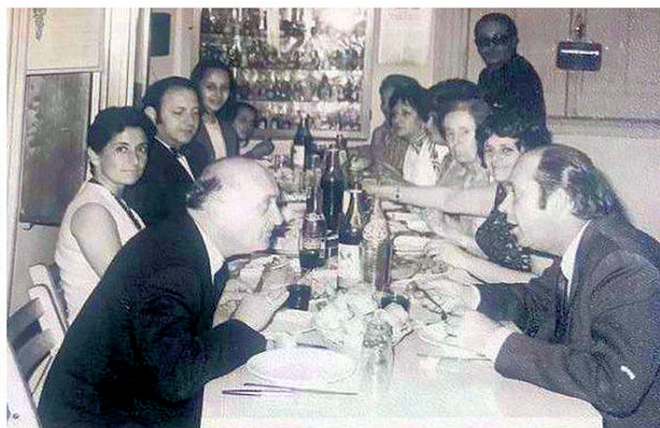
The pack consists of JW Black Label BSW 12yr, a JW Double Black BSW, a JW Gold Label Reserve BSW, and a JW 18yr BSW. Price \$45.

Ken Chin

MINI BOTTLES IN ARGENTINA

Remarks on the Historical Aspects of Miniature Bottle Collecting in Argentina and the Foundation of a new Club

The history of collecting miniature bottles in Argentina goes hand in hand with the beginning of their production in the country. Evidence of this was the few known collections assembled at the beginning of the 20th century, and probably a little earlier, that by fortune allow us to acquire several historical specimens made at that time. However, the era of its systematization started in the middle of the 1950's when Francisco López gave the initial kick that started the collecting of miniatures as a hobby into an organized activity in this country.



He started connecting people who had similar interests when he was one of the owners of the "Almacén Suizo", a food store on Santa Fe Ave., in one of the most elegant neighbourhoods in Buenos Aires city (CABA). This growing, pioneering, enthusiastic group, was named "La Botellita". They set their meetings in different places near to the store, for example at the Quimar cafeteria, also on Santa Fe Ave. (Fig. 1). At that time, as illustrated in figure 2, they began to promote the hobby by diverse means and varied social events such as exhibitions, and well organized dinners.

16 BUENOS AIRES HERALD Tuesday, September 26, 1967

BOTTLING IT UP FOR BENEFIT

BOTTLES, bottles, everywhere — D but not a drop to drink. For the tippler it's a tragic situation but for the collector it is a sight to see. The 11th exhibition of the Argentine Miniature Bottle Association has 10,000 exhibits on display at Santa Fe 1370.

The exhibition, which is in aid of the anti-polio association ALPI, features samples of miniature bottles containing anything from famous brand-name cola drinks to Russian brandy. The foreign exhibits have been given a touch of local colour, with traditional items from the countries of origin.

The Dutch Bols has red glass tulips and the black cat mascot. Italy's Lacrima Cristi comes in containers which illustrate its universality: elephants, toreros, reindeers and birds in glass. Whiskies don't all come from Scotland — or Ireland. Israel has a whisky, and the label is in Hebrew. The exhibition is a United Nations of bottles.

The Mexican Tequila has virtually a Hollywood setting around it; a bandit threatens a barman with a gun, while the gangster's horse waits outside the saloon. French exhibits come with a scale model of the Chat Noir cabaret in Montmartre with mini-skirted barmaids, while Buenos Aires stars with a "botellero" and the "pulperia" of the Pampas in the last century.

The exhibition will be open to the public until the end of the month, from 16.00 to 20.00; and 10.00 to 13.00 and 16.00 to 20.30 on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

Undoubtedly it can be affirmed that the 1950's to the late 1980's period was the golden age of our hobby. Following those decades, several economic crises and many socio-cultural changes, in many ways affected the passion for collecting diverse objects (for instance, stamps, coins, tickets, among others) in Argentina. Hence, the production of miniature bottles drastically declined. As part of this process, and contemporaneously with the closing of both clubs, the collectors were diminishing, many of them quit the hobby, put up for sale their collections, or passed away, and the collections were sold over time. Then, since the decades of the 1990s up to recently, only some scatters survivals of both associations were collecting in isolation, and witnessing almost an "extinction" of the activity. Hence, from being one of the leading countries in miniature bottle collecting around the world our hobby was then only practiced by a few individuals. Since the closure of both clubs, systematic collecting practically disappeared, and only just a few survivors of that golden age remained active, such as Cartago Jorge García, Luis Pérez Accomo, and myself.

However, mainly since the beginning of the 21st century, fortunately, with diverse emphasis several persons started to collect miniature bottles; new collectors emerged, and various assembled significant collections. Some of them, such as Jorge Rey Valzacchi, have a notable international presence interacting with different clubs and meetings. This has allowed Jorge to assemble one of the most notable vodka (among other spirits) collections in the world.

On 30th July last year, Carlos Parodi, a friend colleague from Buenos Aires, connected me with Juan M. Barragán, a young and enthusiastic collector of whisky miniature bottles. In our WhatsApp chats, he showed a great interest in linking together all the people in Argentina with our common hobby. "Go ahead" was my answer. He immediately created a WhatsApp group with our known active colleagues. With the idea of forming a new club, we quickly started to invite and sign-up our fellow collectors. Surprisingly, we quickly formed a significant group of people who agreed to perform a zoom meeting (Fig. 9) to discuss the idea of founding a new miniature bottle club.



Then, with several aims in mind, we had a meeting on August 16th. We agree to found the "Club Argentino de Coleccionistas de Botellitas" (CACB). Among different issues, we discussed and approved our goals, a behavior code, the club's logo, and the committee. As seen on the back page of miNiZ130, a foundation act witnessing this event, officially declares August 17th as the date of the club foundation with our goals and signed by the twenty-two founding members. It is also registered the elected committee as follows: President: J. Rey Valzacchi, Vice-President: H. G. Nami, Secretary: J. M. Barragán, and M. E. Alvarez, L. Pérez Accomo, and C. C. Parodi as first, second and third officers respectively. The well-known pioneer Argentinean collector A. Spinelli was elected as Honorary President. Quickly, in a few days, a significant number of people with common interest from all over the country joined the group. Several of them showed notable generalized and specialized collections. Thanks to the current technological communications, we have had a strong and very active interaction by meetings, exchanging histories and data concerning old and new miniatures, and planning future national and international face-to-face events as well a newsletter publication.



It is highly likely that Robin was a legendary character in the literal sense of the word. His story supposedly dates from the 12th century, during the reign of Richard I (Richard the Lionheart of Crusades fame) but other dates and references put him later and there have been many, many embellishments of the original story over the years. Whatever! It is a good tale, whether there is some truth in it or not and it has made good books, plays, film and TV over the years, as well as some bad/terrible books, plays, film and TV!

The Wikipedia article is well worth a read: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robin_Hood



William Edwards (see miNiZ119) made the figurine of Robin standing with his legendary bow and Lindisfarne the jug (see miNiZ112) also with the bow. The Robin Hood Straight Bourbon Whiskey was made in Illinois and bottled in San Francisco.

The three hunting horns, green black & white are from Rutherford's and are some of their most difficult minis to find. I have been looking for years and still only have one.



I am cheating a bit with The Tram Dram and Glasgow 1990 City of Culture (yeah, right!). These were bottled for the Robin Hood Gift House in Glasgow, although I fail to see what the connection is between Robin Hood and Glasgow.

Next time we have Nelson but so far I have only found straight bottles. Any suggestions or photos showing ceramics would be welcome.

David Smith

BOTTLE TRIPS



Sometimes you find a bottle (or two or three) that you really want to get only to find some sort of obstacle you need to overcome to add them to your collection. That was the case with all of these bottles. The first set, Pirates Grog Rum is a great set that has been around for a while and comes in a very nice wooden chest display box. The company, out of the U.K., does not ship to the U.S. My solution for this one, I had it sent to a collector friend in Canada who then shipped it to me. Double postage yes, but I think the set was well worth it (I ordered 2 sets and sold one to another collector friend here in the U.S. and he split the postage with me).

These bottles came from a company called The Single Cask. There were 3 100 ml bottles that each came with a bottle of Source water, a glass, and a dropper. The series is called the final cut. The idea being that you can add the source water to the cask strength whiskey and determine how best you like it.



The odd thing about this company is they would ship to the U.S., just not to Washington State. I could ship them to Oregon State so the package was sent to my in-laws that live about 3 hours away. Well worth a trip to the in-laws for these bottles.

Finally (and most recently) I saw this Highland Park Discovery selection in a very nice wooden box display. I had 2 choices here, I could pay someone aftermarket prices for it OR get it directly from

the distillery at a much cheaper price. Only Problem, they don't ship to the U.S. What I thought was a simple solution turned out to be a bit more complicated but still worked out. I saw that Israel was listed in the drop down menu for shipping. I contacted a collector friend from Israel to had him get it for me. Upon receiving it I learned that they would not ship it to Israel after all. So he had it shipped to a relative in Switzerland (I think) who then shipped it to him so that he could ship it to me. Even with all the shipping I still paid about 1/2 of what I had seen the asking price had been from some of the aftermarket sellers. So what's the strangest route one of your bottles had to take to get to you. Why not share that with the rest of us. I'm sure others (and David) would appreciate hearing about it.

Ron Gabbard

OLD ST. ANDREWS BARRELS



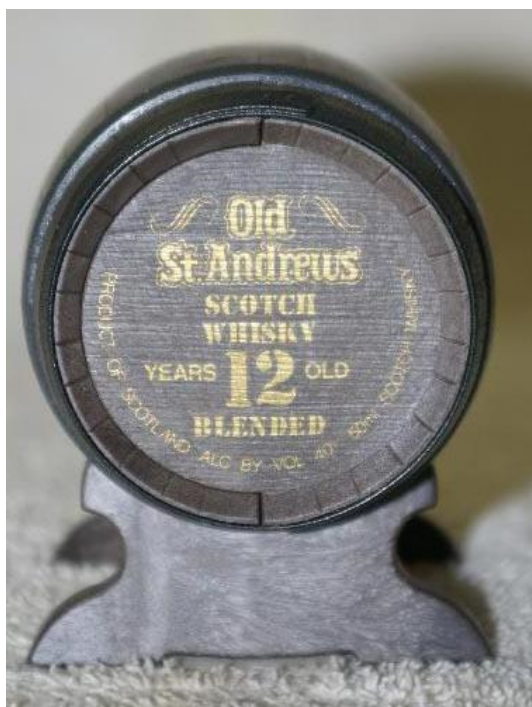
For this article I am going to write about barrel-shaped bottles. I am fortunate enough to have seven of them but I am sure that there are many more. They are all distilled by Old St. Andrews; there are three Malt Scotch Whisky barrels and four Blended Scotch Whisky barrels.

All seven bottles are shaped like barrels and set on a rack or stand. The barrels are shaped out of plastic with an inner glass bottle. The barrels themselves are all brown but the end lids vary in colour and labelling. All of the barrels are about the same size, about 2 inches in diameter. Five are labelled as 50ML, but the other two do not show their size. All seven are bottled at 40 % ABV.

Two of the Malt Scotch Whisky barrels are labelled as being 10 years old and the third is labelled 15 years old. Two of these barrels are labelled as Old St. Andrews Scotch Whisky Malt, but the third is labelled Old St. Andrews Whiskey Barrel Malt Scotch Whisky and shows a picture of three barrel makers.



Three of the Blended Scotch Whisky barrels are labelled as being 5, 8 and 12 years old, there is no age on the fourth. The three aged barrels are labelled as Old St. Andrews Scotch Whisky Blended, but the fourth one is labelled as Celebrating 500 Years of Scotch Whisky 1494 – 1994.



As with so many bottles, these would make a fine addition to any collection and certainly do to mine.

Wayne Fall

MAMAJUANA: THE DOMINICAN VIAGRA

In addition to its beautiful beaches and bachata, the Dominican Republic has a unique drink in the world: Mamajuana. This brew was originally a tea made with roots of trees typical of the area, which the native Indians of the island, called Tainos, used as medicine to cure all kinds of diseases, from toothaches to flu-like conditions. They called it "querqueya" and it no had alcohol.

With the arrival of slaves from Africa towards the beginning of the 16th century, and their shamanic practices, tea gave rise to a more elaborate preparation that consists of bottling roots and barks of plants and trees, such as palo Brasil, bojuco, timacle and guayacán, and spices such as sweet cloves, anise and ginger, among others. Then three or four tablespoons of honey are added, it is filled with rum and it is left to macerate for about a week, after which the liquid is emptied (the branches will have already absorbed part of it), and it is filled again with a good quality rum, letting it sit for a couple of weeks before starting to consume it. This procedure can be carried out over and over again with the same branches, and in fact the specialists point out that in each filling "it gets better".



This is the basic version, and the most widespread among the Dominican population. However, there is a "premium" or "gourmet" version that is made based on octopus, squid, prawns and oysters, instead of the branches, and shrimp broth. A "super-premium" version that gives it that "aphrodisiac air" is the one that incorporates the hawkbill penis, an endangered sea turtle.

Now ... why is it called "Mamajuana"? There are two versions of this. The first refers

to a very old woman, named Juana, who would have been the inventor of this concoction, and who would have had 15 children, almost a symbol of fertility.



The second, perhaps closer to reality, talks about the anecdote of Queen Juana of Naples, who after a storm took refuge in the workshop of a master glassmaker, who taught her the technique of making bottles by blowing. When the Queen wanted to make the first bottle of it, she blew with such force that her final product was a 10-liter pot, which from then on was called "Dame-Jeanne" or "demijohn". In the Dominican Republic, it is claimed, this type of container was

used to place the branches and other ingredients, and surely the pronunciation of the locals derived in the now recognized "mamajuana".

Is it an aphrodisiac?



Now, beyond its flavor, the fame of Mamajuana is due to the infinite stories of the Dominicans themselves about the magnificent "aphrodisiac effects" of this drink. However, the reality from the scientific point of view is different.

Let's see. Since ancient times and in the most diverse cultures, the sacred books, and why not also in the famous Kamasutra, have tried to show that certain foods stimulate and improve the sexual appetite.

To this day we could say that the list is so long that there are almost no foods to which energizing properties are not attributed sexually. Some, such as chocolate, oysters, celery, nutmeg, garlic, ginger, caviar, asparagus, and prawns, among many others, take the cake and are the most mentioned as an article has been written for special dates like "Valentine's Day." Either because of its appearance (phallic, lip or

vulvar), because of its aroma, its flavor, or its texture, there are foods and beverages that are more likely to be cited within this category.

However, from the point of view of neurophysiology - there is no evidence that these foods and drinks enhance sexual desire. In any case, as with cayenne pepper and other spicy flavors, for example, what is produced from the physiological is the increase in heart rate, metabolism and sweating, characteristics that are also evident during sexual intercourse.

In reality, in most cases, what can actually happen to the consumer of such foods is a "placebo effect" that, associated with the circumstances that can occur in a seduction situation (food and drink, environment, lighting, clothing, fragrances, music, etc.), will surely lead to greater eroticism and act as a mutual stimulus for sexual intercourse. This "placebo effect", which has been talked about so much in the cure of various diseases, has its fundamental component in the brain, where imagination and desire come from. If one fervently believes in its beneficial effect, it will surely work.

In her adorable book "Aphrodite", Isabel Allende sarcastically comments: "Shark fins, babún testicles ... if you need to resort to such extremes to raise your libido or desire to love, we suggest you consult a psychiatrist or change partners". And she adds later: "In the tireless quest to strengthen the fragile male member and heal the indifference of distracted women, one goes to the extreme of swallowing cockroach dust."



Finally: the local production of Mamajuana has increased notably in the Dominican Republic in recent years, and exports to the United States (where Dominican immigration is numerous) and to some European countries such as Spain and Italy have grown significantly. The producers have not forgotten the 50 ml bottles, which are found in various stores for tourists as souvenirs, and of course in the duty free shop at the Las Américas Airport in Santo Domingo.

Jorge Rey Valzacchi

(Buenos Aires, Argentina)



SPANISH GIN



Thanks for your efforts with the miNiZ. I often think when it comes out I should try to contribute, but I really don't know what to write about. My collection is a baby compared to most of you guys and I don't specialise in anything so I struggle for ideas of what to write about. I did an article once, when I was a club newbie, but that was it. I hardly ever find any new bottles either, but this week I have this morning purchased here in Townsville at the local bottle store a gin I have not seen before. Says it's made in Spain on the label by MG Destilerias. I am not sure if its new or not, or it's just arrived here. But attached is a photo!!

Cheers, Pieta, Townsville, North Queensland.

Just an example as to how any member, and occasionally, non-member, can contribute.



Date - Time - Place

Saturday 15th January 2022, 12.30pm, Annual Barbeque @ David & Rosie Smith's, 73 Otaki Gorge Road, Hautere, Kapiti (turn right over new bridge before crossing the Otaki River – 700m to our place)
Phone: 027 275 7712 ***** Note Saturday not Sunday by request at last AGM*****

PLEASE, let the hosts know you are coming a few days beforehand.

The 2021 AGM will be on Sunday the 20st February. There will be a barbecue lunch starting at 12.30 with the AGM about 2.30 @ Di Ryder's, 20 Prospect Terrace, Johnsonville, Wellington. Other meetings for 2022 will be scheduled at the AGM – see on web site.

ALL MEETINGS SUBJECT TO POSSIBLE FUTURE PANDEMIC REGULATIONS