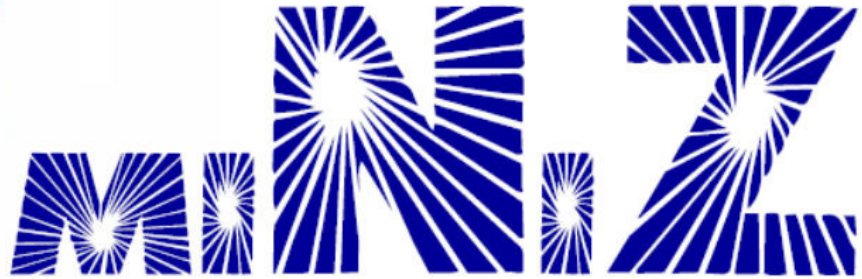


Issue 129 - Summer 2021



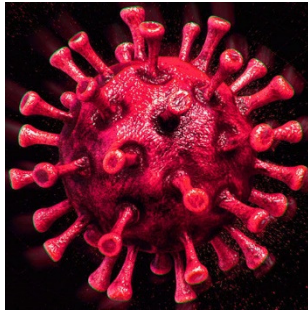
WWW.MINISNZ.COM

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW ZEALAND MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



Australasia's International Miniature Bottle Club





GET READY.....

With the vaccines beginning to roll out hopefully we can get back to normal later this year. Firstly, a lighter note: <https://www.minisnz.com/miniz-pdf/happy-new-year.mp4>

The linked animation was found by Ian Butcher.



David Smith

NEW NEW ZEALAND, THIS & THAT

I didn't have many new New Zealand bottles to show you last time but am making up for that this time. The cover shows two new gins which look to be in the same bottles but the Curious is 50ml and the Dr Beak 100ml. The first is one of a set of four found by Erica Mulder. We had the four original Curiosity bottles on the cover of miNiZ124 but they now have a new label. Although I much prefer the original label it is still an essential purchase for me to add to my NZ Bottle collection. Frank Wynn found the website for Dr Beak, <https://drbeak.nz/>. This is a new company based in Marlborough but at \$18.50 the bottle is over priced. Talking of Frank, I forgot to show you the two Thomson minis, that Frank found four months ago, in miNiZ128.



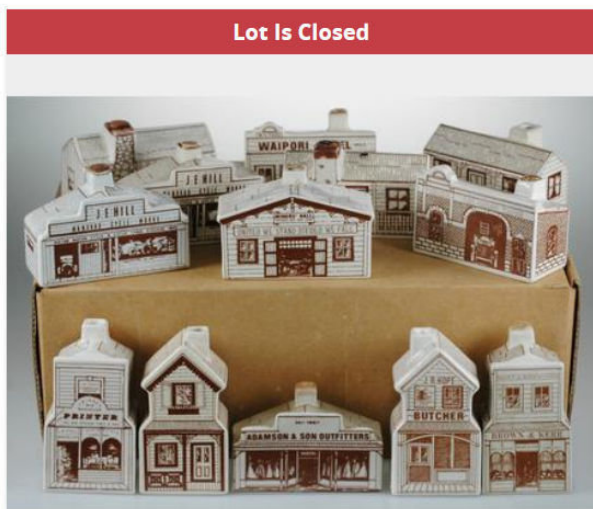
Ken Chin found the two cocktail bottles, J.M.R. Cocktail & Co Chocolate and Espresso Martinis. These add to the four he found for us to show in miNiZ120. Both are 100ml.



Erica Mulder found a set of three bottles from Broken Heart Spirits of Queenstown. I showed you the original Broken Heart gin in miNiZ117 and, unfortunately, the one in the set is identical. The rum and vodka are new though.



Each year the Spanish Mini Bottle Club, CECBL, produce a special miniature for their members. Despite the Covid 19 pandemic, last year was no exception and they decided to bottle a very special limited edition (165) miniature to commemorate the 10th anniversary of their club, which was founded in Segovia in 2010. The miniature they have chosen is a single malt produced at Chichibu Distillery in Japan. This young distillery was founded in 2004 and began marketing its products in 2008. The club web site is worth a visit (it's in both Spanish & English) and they have this and other club bottles for sale.



SOLD \$1,600

⌚ **TIMED AUCTION**

[Antique Bottles & Collectables Dec 6th 2020](#)

DESCRIPTION

Rare offering of all 11 different Air New Zealand miniature liqueur bottles, made by Cerographics Auckland, they were filled with 50ml of Port Nicholson NZ Whisky, introduced 1985 gone by 1986, highly sought after collectables. J E Hill Manukau Cycle Works has a feint hairline to roof, all Very Good (13) Note update 29/11/2020 There are actually 11 different versions plus extra one of Hill Cycle Shop & The Cottage Also all have just Air New Zealand to the base except Miners Hall & Brown & Kerr which have additional words Colonial Collection Port Nicholson Scotch 50ml

Interesting that these have kept their value so well.
Thanks to Peter Bonkovich for this info.

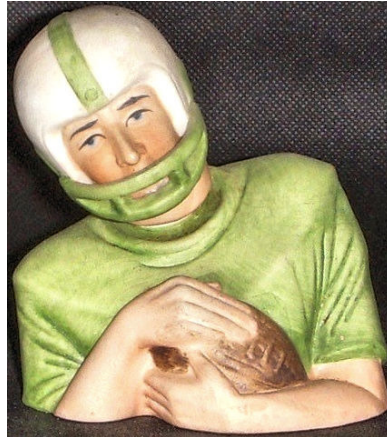
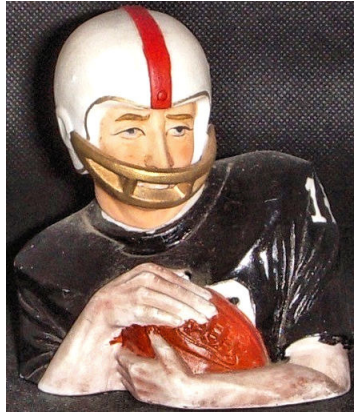
I am sad to report the death of one of our NZ members, Colin Todd. Colin was a keen ceramic figurals collector and always attended any Auckland meetings we had, as well as a number of AGM's. We have also had a resignation, from Harland Johnson of New Orleans. Harland has been relatively prominent in the hobby and has even been to NZ twice. He has now sold all his collection. I'm glad I got to catch up with him in 2019. We lost another member, Eric Hatzenbehler, due to him having changed email addresses. Although an American member, neither of the US clubs have an email address for him. If you know of one, please let us know. And **PLEASE** let us know if you change your address. Despite this we are still at a record membership due to new collectors joining.

Stay safe and get a jab when you can everyone.

David Smith

DAVID'S BOTTLES

The last miNiZ showed a Kuwabara Winery / Haas Brothers sample letter opener bottle that I sold to Pete Gabbard. I thought you might like to see some more KW/HB samples.



Have a look at the letter opener (back page, miNiZ128) and you will see that the bottle top right is similar but different. There is a third football, one that in a moment of silliness I sold to Father Joe.



David Spaid



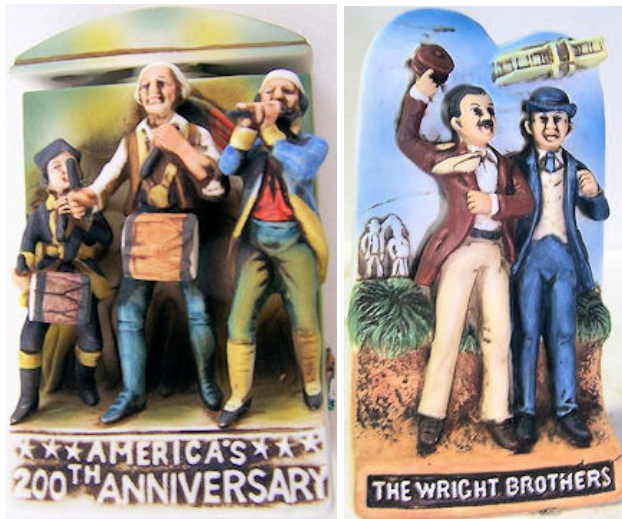
Is this the one you sold David? The picture is from a collection sold a few years ago in Ohio (I forget the collector's name). Do you wish to take Confession Father Joe and admit to selling it? Or is this yet another footballer sample?

By the way, I love the two Samurai. There have been black & white scans of these (from MBC) on Miniature Bottle Library since it was set up. The colour versions are spectacular, a real pity there was never a production run.

KUABARA REVISITED

Following on from David's Bottles let me tell you the story of the Samurai letter opener bottle. Sam Kuwabara had been (I believe) President of Morozoff Chocolates. The Morozoff liquor company got tired of another company with the same name so Sam closed down the chocolate company. He then went to four different ceramic makers in Seto, Japan. Seto is near the town of Toyota where the cars are made. Of the 100,000 people in Seto (this was in the 1970's), 60,000 were employed making ceramics and/or porcelain pieces. All of the Ski Country bottles were made in Seto.

(Flapper and Drum Major SC samples shown >>)



(<< Spirit of '76 with McCormick label & The Wright Brothers sample for McCormick).

Anyway, Sam had an idea to make mini bottles and sell them in the U.S. He came here with samples of samurai on horseback, football players, etc. One notable piece was the Spirit of '76. The bottles were great...Sam wasn't. He went to distributors in Los Angeles, San Francisco (the Haas Brothers...makers of Cyrus Noble),

Reno, and Las Vegas. He gave each distributor exclusive U.S. rights to the bottles. And that, friends, ain't kosher.



At the same time Sam was not paying the four companies in Seto who had made the bottles for him. In some cases, several hundred were produced (like the 1976 MBC Geisha set) but there were lots of miniature samples. No one here in the U.S. could go after Sam because the Japanese took care of the problem themselves. As I was told, Sam fed the fishes in Tokyo Bay.

David Spaid

NEW SPANISH BOTTLES



I do not have so many for you this time but I hope you enjoy these.



The last mini, a mezcal, is not available in Mexico, as it is only found in Spain.

Luis Campos

HISTORICAL FIGURES #9N

ROB ROY

Robert Roy MacGregor (1671 – 1734) was a Scottish patriot, then outlaw, who later became a folk hero. He is the Scottish equivalent of Robin Hood in that the myth has been embellished over the years and bears little resemblance to the historical facts.

Rob Roy became a legend in his own lifetime with the publication of *The Highland Rogue*. This was considerably reinforced in 1817 by the poem, *Rob Roy* by Sir Walter Scott. Various books, poems, an overture and films followed, the latest being the 1995 film, *Rob Roy*, starring Liam Neeson.



The Rob Roy brand is owned by Morrison Bowmore. The seven bottles on this page (there are more on Miniature Bottle Library - <https://www.minibottlelibrary.com/mb/alpha/zz-morrison-bowmore>) were all bottled by M-B or their predecessor, Stanley P. Morrison, who in turn had a subsidiary, The Scottish Trading Company, which was mainly used for export bottles. The green bottle bears an Italian import label.





The above two bottles are the latest iteration of the M-B Rob Roy label. Next is a single malt from A.C. Walker that was made for the Rob Roy Hotel. Finally we have a Lindisfarne Mead jug.

David Smith

HISTORICAL FIGURES – BONUS

JOHN F. KENNEDY

John Fitzgerald Kennedy (1917 – 1963), commonly referred to by his initials JFK, was the 35th President of the United States from January 1961 until his assassination in Dallas in November 1963. He is best known for standing up to the Soviet Union during the Cuban Missile Crisis where the world stood on the brink of nuclear war.



The first and second busts are from Old Store, the third from La Reggia, both from Italy.

The bottle speaks for itself.



BOURBON - DID YOU KNOW?

The name Basil Hayden is well known as it forms part of Jim Beam's Small Batch Collection. Basil had arrived in Kentucky in the late 18th century and started distilling. In 1840 his grandson named his top bourbon Old Grandd in his honour. After a few takeovers the company was sold to Jim Beam in 1987.



Old Crow was not a woman. James Crow was a Scottish doctor who moved to Kentucky in the 1820's. He took up distilling but never owned a distillery. He worked for a number of distilleries and such was his reputation that the whiskey was sold under his name. He brought a bit of



science to the industry such as measuring instruments. When he died in 1856 his recipe died with him. The Old Crow distillery opened in 1872 but the new bourbon was not a patch on the

original. By the 1970's it was bottom shelf material. In 1987 the brand was sold to Jim Beam.

Booker's is another of the small batch collection. Booker Noe was a grandson of Jim Beam and the master distiller from 1965 till 1992. He used to select some of the best barrels to bottle for himself and friends. It was uncut and unfiltered. When he retired Jim Beam started selling his choices under his name. It sold





at around 125 proof and 8 years of age.

FEW do not make miniatures which is a pity as they are my initials. The distillery is based in Evanston just north of Chicago. The area was dry from 1858 till 1972. In keeping with prohibition then the company name is taken from the initials of the area's most prominent anti alcohol advocate Frances Elizabeth Willard.



Old Forester is the oldest continuously produced whiskey brand in America. It started in 1870 and has carried on ever since, even through prohibition. Another claim to fame is that it was the first whiskey to be sold exclusively in sealed bottles rather than from a barrel. The name of the founders, the Brown Brothers, lives on with the Brown-Forman company.



Old Overholt opened during 1810 in Pennsylvania. Andrew Mellon became sole owner in 1919. During prohibition he was secretary of the treasury. Amongst his duties was to ensure the ban on liquor production was enforced. Definitely a conflict of interest there. It should come as no surprise that Old Overholt was one of the 10 distilleries allowed to produce whiskey during prohibition for "medicinal purposes." This is yet another brand that ended up with Beam Suntory.



Frank Wynn

Some Unusual bottles (and non bottles) in my collection

Although I primarily collect Scotch and Absinthe that doesn't mean other bottles (and non bottles) don't make it into my collection. Here are a few of the strange bottles that are part of my collection.



Alba Crafts created this acrylic paperweight that features the Scotch Whisky Trail (or at least part of it) This is #5 of I don't know how many. Not really a bottle, but it does contain a very small amount of scotch. And it goes well with my scotch collection.



Angels share glass is 2.5 cl of 40% vol scotch whisky. I don't know if it's good whisky or bad whisky and I won't be breaking it open to find out.



A cobra in a bottle. It may be common in some Asian countries but it was strange enough for me to add to my collection.

Can you think of a good reason not to have scotch flavored condoms in your whisky collection? Neither could I that's why these were added to the collection a few years ago.

Odd shaped bottles usually make it to my collection, that's why the gun below was added.



I have a few micro minis (and even smaller) that I've added to the collection. Here are 3 of the many tiny bottles I have. The 50 ml crown is shown for size comparison. Most of the time these bottles come with the claim of being the world's smallest whisky bottle. But they can't all be the smallest.



The Kapsi is a tear drop shaped absinthe bottle that is 5ml. The shape and size is what makes it unusual.

This skeleton bottle is one I just recently got. It will also be available in a whiskey sometime in early 2021.

The Imperial Knight bottle is an older bottle that I have had awhile. The knights head is the stopper. (It's hanging with a string on the backside of the bottle)

Ron Gabbard



KAPSI & GALLEGA

On the previous page Ron Gabbard showed us a 5ml tear drop shaped bottle from Kapsi. I had not seen it before but the bottle rang a bell. The Theme search on Miniature Bottle Library really is my friend. A search on Tear Drop quickly found this bottle from Gallega of Spain. But wait, that Peso coin cannot be Spanish as it is dated 2010 and Spain used the Euro then. However a Google search found a box of these bottles that says, on the side, Galicia, Espana. So yes, this is Spanish but it just shows how careful you have to be when identifying where a bottle came from.



I decided to look up Kapsi also and found that they make 7 tear drop bottles and sell them in a tube of 6, usually all the same spirit but at times mixed. They are €6.50 for 6 from a retailer called Nicolas in France. A bargain given how much



packaging there is for 30ml of spirit. From their Facebook page they also seem to be popular as 'wedding favours.'

Shown in the tubes are kirsch, absinthe, rhum and poire william. Not shown are mirabelle, prune & framboise.

David Smith



Your Article ~~Could~~ **Should
Be Here in miNiZ**

**We are relying on the same few people, issue
after issue – **NOT GOOD ENOUGH****



AUCTION REPORT



In the last miNiZ I showed you some Scotches that had sold for £30 or more, this is the promised article on cheaper Scotch.



Grand Alistair 5yo malt and Bells for the 1990 Scottish Open sold for £2 each. The two Sheraton Grand Hotel malts sold for £4 the pair – cheap! The Clan Malt duo were also sold as a pair, this time for £5 the pair, which is less than one sold for new in the Scottish souvenir shops.



The old cork top Bells was ridiculously cheap at £2, as was the Birnie Moss tube bottle. Spirit of Speyside 2006 Whisky Festival fetched £5 and the other three £6 each. This was surprisingly cheap in the case of the last bottle as this is a Berry Bros & Rudd 21 Year Old

small batch Sandwood Bay Trade Sample, The Perspective Series No.1



Kings's Blend and King's Choice fetched £6 each, and the other three £7 each.



Each of these bottles went for £8. That seems reasonable apart from the Old Pulteney 16 year old Traveller's Exclusive, Trade Sample. I would have thought that this was worth much more.



The William Wallace is a cork cap bottle in good condition, £9 seems a poor price. The other four fetched £10 each – I especially like the first two of these. Strictly speaking, the Compass Box infinity is not a Scotch as it is a Scotch/Calvados blend – sounds interesting.



Captain's Own, Berry's Own Selection 1984 MacDuff and Stewart's Yellow Label each went for £12. Bunnahabhain Ceobanach Brand Sample, Rattray 23yo 1995 Highland Park and the 1980 North British each sold for £14.



Willy Parker is a name I haven't seen before and another £14 mini. Stewart's Gold Medal was £18 and the HQ with the US import label £20. The QEII fetched a surprising £16 as this is quite a common jug.



Heather Dew from Mitchell Brothers is an £18 bottle, the next four £20 each. The final two,

probably 1930's bottles, fetched £22 each.

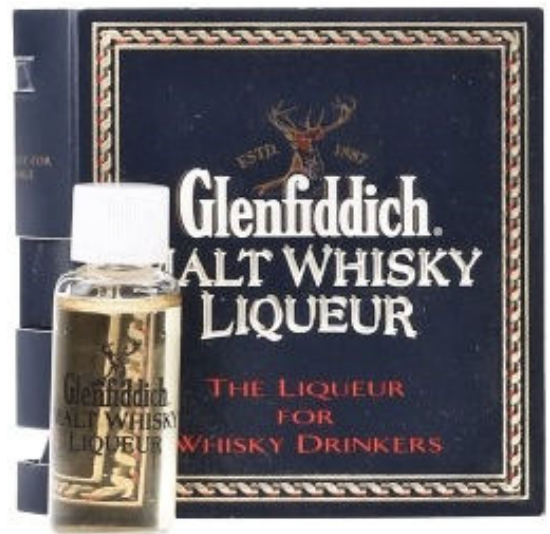


There are some nice old bottles in this line. Sandy's and The Famed sold for £22 each, Stewarts and Vat 42, £24 each, the final three £26 each.



Distill 'The Malt Gallery' is a Press Sample Set comprising 2 Bunnahabhain, Deanston, Ledaig & Tobermory.

This sold for £24 and another set, with the box, for £26. The Glenfiddich is only 3.5ml but sold for £28



Tom's Blend £16, McCallums £28, Glenlivet 3956 days old £28, Duff's £26, Haig & Haig £26 & Isle of Skye £28.

Just for a change, some American whiskey for you.



Ezra Brooks is 4.7cl and has a Braniff International airline label, £35. The Jack Daniels Green Label is an Italian Import, £95. Feel free to make me an offer on the next one as it has not yet gone up on my 'For Sale' site (£95 not expected 😊 minizv@gmail.com) Amazingly the 4.7cl Black Label went for £35! Jack Daniel's Master Distiller is a Japan Import but still, £120 seems very high. Siglio (Italian seal bottles) always sell well and the Kentucky Tavern was no exception, £130.



Virgin Bourbon £65, Maker's Mark green wax £120, L&G is a 1940 bottle £105, Wisconsin Club is a similar age, £50 bought it. Finally we have a very modern bottle, Whistlepig Farm 12yo. Why did it sell for £115?

Another auction finishes tomorrow so more in the next miNiZ.

David Smith

WHISKY GREATEST HITS RECORD PACK



That Boutique-Y Whisky Company is part of London based, The Master of Malt, who also make the 'Drinks By The Dram' bottles. This great set contains 6 x 50ml single malt Scotches, one Irish single malt, one Bourbon, one English single malt and one Scotch blend:

- Teaninich 10 Year Old (That Boutique y Whisky Company)
- Bourbon Whiskey #1 24 Year Old (That Boutique y Whisky Company)
- Royal Brackla 12 Year Old (That Boutique y Whisky Company)
- Speyside #3 6 Year Old (That Boutique y Whisky Company)
- Auchroisk 12 Year Old (That Boutique y Whisky Company)
- Blended Whisky #2 22 Year Old (That Boutique y Whisky Company)
- Cotswolds 3 Year Old (That Boutique y Whisky Company)
- Irish Single Malt #1 14 Year Old (That Boutique y Whisky Company)
- Dufftown 10 Year Old (That Boutique y Whisky Company)
- Islay #3 13 Year Old (That Boutique y Whisky Company)

The set was found by Frank Wynn at Whisky & More in Auckland and is/was on sale in a number of countries. W&M wanted \$189.99, which seems reasonable if not cheap for a set that will undoubtedly increase in value. As a bonus the 'record' actually spins in the box! Better picture of the bottles on the next page.



Date - Time - Place

Sunday 10th January 2021, 12.30pm, Annual Barbeque @ David & Rosie Smith's, 11 Trevor Terrace, Paremata
Phone: 04 233 2997

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

The 2021 AGM will be on the 21st February. There will be a barbecue lunch starting at 12.30 with the AGM about 2.30 @ Colin & Di Ryder's, 20 Prospect Terrace, Johnsonville, Wellington. Meetings for 2021 will be scheduled at the AGM – see on web site.

ALL MEETINGS SUBJECT TO POSSIBLE FUTURE PANDEMIC REGULATIONS