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## THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW ZEALAND MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



# EDITORIAL

## I am pissed-off with you all. Not got that? I AM PISSED-OFF WITH YOU ALL!

Actually not quite all but nearly all. The last miNiZ was put out in late January (2/3 weeks late – my fault) and this edition was due out in April. I am the Editor but I cannot edit if almost nobody sends me articles to edit. Out of 158 members, IN 9 MONTHS, I have received only 3 articles, two of which are from one regular contributor and one from a fairly new member. In addition I have been sent information by a few other members. This was, of course, gratefully received.

In the past I have virtually written the whole of miNiZ myself but I have been saying for a long time that I am not prepared to do that anymore. Apart from which I have moved house during the year to a 13 acre property that needs a lot of my input to 'bash it into shape' and make it easy care long term. If I have to do the whole of miNiZ myself it is the best part of a week's work – a week I no longer have.

These are the members (alphabetical order) who have, over the last 9 months, contributed in one way or another to this edition: David Spaid, Frank Wynn, Graham Ramsay, Hugo Nami & Jose Fernando Escobar – that's 6! **NOT GOOD ENOUGH**

When a new member joins they get a "Welcome Letter." This includes the sentence: *With membership comes obligation, remember that any club is a cooperative. If members do not regularly or occasionally write articles for the club newsletter, miNiZ, it becomes very difficult if not impossible to publish.* Just think about that. Without miNiZ the club will die. Which means without contributions to miNiZ the club will die. Why are you a member if you want the club to die? I feel sure that none of you want the club to die, so get writing or contributing photos of new bottles, snippets of interest to other members etc. IT IS NOT THAT DIFFICULT.

Enough said, enjoy miNiZ130 and don't make it the last edition!

*David Smith*



## BOMB DISPOSAL CONFERENCE

Seemed appropriate having just put a bomb under you all!

I was sent this bottle for inclusion in Miniature Bottle Library by Bob Epps (not a member), who wrote: "I'm not sure when I got this, but it was at an international conference for bomb technicians around 2004 or 2005.

Ralf Kording is a German manufacturer that makes a lot of 'Special' and 'Joke' bottles. I have about 170 photos of Ralf Kording bottles waiting to be processed for MBL. Talking of MBL, at the beginning of the year I uploaded Straights from Austria and Switzerland and A to F for Germany. I am still collecting photos for MBL but for a few months I am having a rest from proccerssing. If anyone wants to help with MBL let me know.

# NEW NEW ZEALAND, THIS & THAT



Our cover shows three gins and three vodkas from a new NZ distiller, The Vicar's Son. I was going to do an article about them but their web site does a great job:

<https://vicarsson.co.nz/pages/our-story>

Incidentally, Graham Crawford, one of our Australian members, sent me the link to The Vicar's Son. Seems that our NZ members, myself included, are asleep. They are happy to do mail order.

Unfortunately The Vicar's Son bottles are the only new NZ bottles I have to show you. Has anyone found any more? If so, why have you not emailed us a photo?

There are very few mini bottles that have been made in our neighbour, Fiji, over the years so these two new Ratu rums that turned up on Facebook is news. I have no idea where they can be bought though.



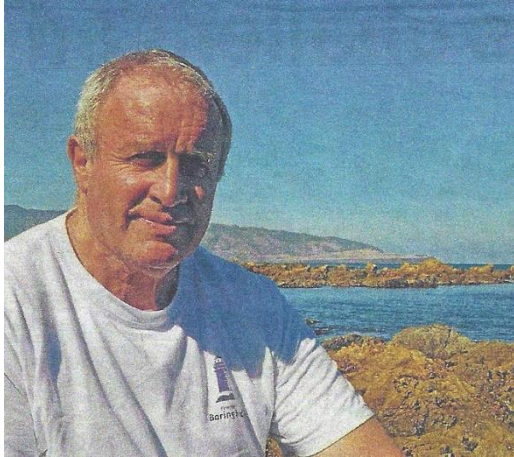
Member Jose Fernando Escobar sent me a link to a company making minis in Angola:

<http://www.uniquebeverages.net/uniquebeverages.net/index.php> Shown are Tangawisi Whisky and Indica Royale Whisky, both 90ml. Again, I nor Jose, know where they can be bought. The only other known mini bottle from Angola is the Old Vat Whisky.



Yes, you have seen the Balvenie British Airways mini before. It is 10yo, 5cl and was on the cover of miNiZ122. This one sold for £650 – the highest price for a ceramic mini that I have ever heard of.

*David Smith*



## Colin Ryder

Conservationist, Environmentalist,  
Public Servant & Mini Bottle Collector

**November 1st 1946 - March 9th 2021**

Colin joined the club in 1983 and became a committee member a few months later. He dropped off the committee after a year as his conservation commitments took more and more of his time. He came back onto the committee as President in 1996 and remained NZMBC President for 25 years.

However, collecting minis was only a minor part of his life and so below is his obituary prepared for the Dominion Post newspaper which shows what a multi-faceted achiever he was.

Colin Ryder left an enduring legacy on Wellington, be it the Taputeranga marine reserve he helped establish at Island Bay, eradicating mice on Mana Island, or helping create Wellington's Te Kopahau reserve on the South Coast.

A driving force of Wellington conservation for 30 years, he was a relentless campaigner and fund-raiser. A colleague at his funeral said his mark on Wellington "will never be erased and never forgotten".

His sudden death at his Johnsonville home through an accident while renovating his house shocked the environmental community as well as his family. (His daughter had to go through managed isolation for 14 days after coming from Australia for the funeral. His son, locked down in England because of the Covid crisis, could only send a video message, saying he "could not believe he would have to say goodbye like this.")

Ryder's most obvious distinguished feature was his broken nose, sustained while boxing in his home town of Invercargill where he had a tough family upbringing.

His personality could veer from pugnaciousness to good humoured and single-minded dedication, traits he carried through decades of conservation work and his career as a public servant in Wellington with the Ministry of Energy, Electricity Corporation and later the Department of Corrections.

In 1979 he was the ministry's director of conservation, when he had to run the Government's controversial nationwide petrol saving measure of carless days. Entire church congregations were writing protest letters to the Minister because they could not use their cars, or buy petrol in the weekends. Coupons designating which day of the week a vehicle could be used were also being traded on the black market, and Colin had the tricky job of managing the scheme and enduring the political opprobrium being heaped on the Government.

Although the year-long scheme saved only 4 percent of fuel use, it raised public consciousness about the oil crisis and helped lay the groundwork for the Government's energy strategy, using Maui gas, which followed.

In those energy crisis times he was a frequent visitor at the Minister's office.

Among earlier important involvements with energy was his role in chairing the team of government officials that negotiated the joint venture contract for New Zealand's big offshore oil and gas field, Maui. Negotiations with Shell, BP and Todd took two years \_ the companies wanted rapid depletion to get a better return on their capital investment. But the Government wanted slower depletion to ensure longer term reliable energy supply.

The Maui Agreement of 1973 specified the gas to be paid for, and accelerated the direct use of natural gas as a fuel by New Zealanders. Basil Walker, a member of the government team and a later Secretary of Energy, recalls that Colin could arrive at a pragmatic outcome to the benefit of all parties.

Among his ministry workmates he also became notorious for his long runs around Wellington at lunchtimes. He maintained his fitness - and love for craft beer - throughout his life.

He was one of the last men at the ministry when it was abolished in 1989. Later he got involved with the Department of Corrections in 2004 as a contract manager and negotiator. After retiring in 2013 he was appointed to the board of the Prison Chaplaincy Service and remained on it until his death. Its chairperson, Anne Dickinson, said he joked that he was the board's only resident atheist.

She added that he loved the outdoors, the taonga of the Wellington region and all the places he hoped to conserve. "All the things that prisoners were denied. He saw his conservation work as a way of bringing them hope for a different future."

He became legendary for his successful grant applications, and he would help any organisation with its appeals for environmental grants. "He would help anyone who was disadvantaged. He was a community builder, an enabler and volunteer - a status he guarded closely."

Jim Lynch, the founder of Zealandia who worked closely with Colin, called him a "giant of the conservation world. He made a huge contribution to conservation and nature and had an extraordinary sense of public service and bulldog determination."

Colin and mate Andrew Cutler were nicknamed the "eco Taleban" for their 17 years of perseverance to create the Taputeranga marine reserve. Corrections colleague and friend Russell Underwood said Colin raised more than \$20 million for environmental and conservation work, - and probably closer to \$30 million.

Colin joined Forest and Bird in the 1980s and with Maureen Burgess formed the Conservation Corps that led the restoration of Mana Island's habitat and the eradication of the mice that plagued the island (at that time the largest mouse eradication in the world). He was duly made a life member of the Friends of Mana Island.

Russell Underwood said he was a campaigner, influencer and a leader. Proud of his southern roots, Colin came to Wellington from Invercargill after graduating from Otago University with a Bachelor of Commerce, accountancy and management skills.

Taking redundancy after the Ministry of Energy was disestablished in December 1989, he worked for the Electricity Corporation as its thermal fuels manager from 1990 to 1999. Negotiating energy supply contracts, he bought the fossil fuel required to run ECNZ's thermal power stations.

When ECNZ was broken up, he took redundancy and then ran the former Magills pub in Thorndon Quay for four years with a business partner. He enjoyed engaging with other people and, with his interest in beer, saw it as an interesting opportunity.

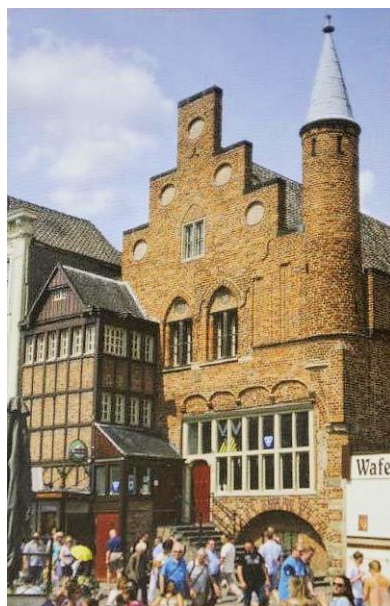
Jim Lynch said Colin helped bring the birds back to Wellington by commissioning the "Natural Wellington" plan, then helping convince Wellington City Council it was a good idea. "He initiated and helped sell the ideas that changed Wellington forever. Wellington now, instead of being a biological basket case, is now a biological showcase."

As well as the Taputeranga Marine Reserve Colin was also involved in conservation projects at Long Gully Bush, Pencarrow Lakes, the Wainuiomata river catchment, Watts Peninsular and Baring Head - a particular recent passion.

Colin, who was 74, is survived by his wife Dianne, their three children and one grandchild.

When he died I was working on an application to get him onto the Honours List. Sadly these cannot be issued posthumously as he would have been a shoe-in. The obituary only scratches the surface of Colin's conservation work, there is much, much more as I found out doing the research for the application. Colin was a close friend and is sadly and badly missed. David Smith

# KLM 101 & 102 & SPECIALS



The 101st KLM miniature house is a replica of the 800-year-old building "Die Mariaen" (now known as "De Moriaan") in 's-Hertogenbosch in the southern province of Brabant in the Netherlands.

"De Moriaan" is one of the oldest brick buildings in the Netherlands. It was built in 's-Hertogenbosch (also known as Den Bosch) over 800 years ago by members of the local nobility who settled in the new city, which had been granted a city charter in 1184. The enormous, 5-metre-high cellar was accessible at

the rear from the quays of the inner harbour. Above this semi-underground commercial space was a huge hall, which was doubtlessly also used for trade.



This year's house Delftware miniature – No. 102 in the series – portrays Amsterdam's stunning Tuschinski Theatre and was revealed during a celebration held inside the theatre on Oct. 7. Local dignitaries and many of KLM's most frequent fliers were there, as was Femke Halsema, the mayor of Amsterdam, who received the first house, in keeping with KLM's tradition.

Opened in October 1921 by Polish immigrant Abraham Icek Tuschinski and recently named the world's most beautiful cinema in the world by British Time Out Magazine, the theatre is an opulent mixture of several architectural styles, including art nouveau, art deco, and elements of the Amsterdam School. Now owned by Pathé, everything in the theatre has been refurbished, from the carpeting and the ornamental lamps to the historic wall and ceiling murals and the original Wurlitzer organ.

On the subject of KLM houses a collector pointed out to me that some have the date on the



base. KLM25 is an example of this. As you can see this one was made by Bols in 2015 but the original #25 was made way back by both Rynbende and then Henkes (both made #1-45).



 **KLM**Houses.com



 **KLM**Houses.com



Three new KLM 'Specials' have turned up, Concert Gebouw and Waldorf-Astoria, both in Amsterdam & Cincinnati Music Hall, Ohio.

The current asking price for Concert Gebouw is €5,000 (reduced from €7,000) and €6,000 for the Waldorf Astoria. The dearest of these three is the Cincinnati Music Hall, Ohio at €8,500! I have all the regular Bols KLM buildings (except 102 that has just been issued), and full sets of the Rynbende and Henkes KLM houses, but I will not be buying these.

Concert Gebouw was built in the 1880's. The Concert Gebouw, together with the Symphony Hall in Boston and the Great Hall of the Musikverein in Vienna, is considered to be one of the top three concert halls in the world. House Marot on Herengracht, is the main entrance to the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. It was made in 2019 in honour of Hilton's 100th anniversary. Cincinnati Music Hall is another 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary bottle, this one as a joint celebration between KLM and GE Aviation.

*David Smith*

# DAVID'S BOTTLES

Despite being seriously ill David Spaid continues to keep finding recently issued bottles and sending us photos. Thank you.



The above are all from Mexico. Nice set from El Rey and the Bandero is the first new 'watch' bottle we have seen for some time.





Blood Oath is a set which is not really legitimate. It was made by a guy in Chicago (Mason Berle) and sold on Facebook. The labels are shrinks of the full size bottle but really well done.



The Gladstone Axe are a great new pair of Scotch Whiskies.

I thought Shanky's Whip was an Irish Whiskey and, indeed, it is distilled, blended and bottled in Ireland. It is actually a blend of Black Irish Whiskey and Irish Spirits blended with natural vanilla and cream. Sounds good.

As usual, more next time.

*David Spaid*

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## **BAITZ STORK FOR SALE**



Rarely, very rarely, do you see one of these undamaged. And even more rarely do you see one for sale, even with no baby.

Dave Mellor wrote to the club "My mother-in-law has a Baitz Creme de Menthe Stork and Baby bottle. She was wondering if someone in your club may be interested in it. It is missing the baby but we will keep looking for it as it may be here somewhere. She is based in Browns Bay (Auckland).



I wrote back and Dave replied "Thank you for the reply. I understand it is a specialist item, that's why I have contacted you. Yes we would be happy to receive offers if someone finds it valuable. We would love to see it in the hands of a collector and appreciated."

Contact Dave on [dave.mellor@enap.com.au](mailto:dave.mellor@enap.com.au)

# AQUILES GIN FROM ARGENTINA

In ancient Greek mythology, Achilles or Achilleus (Aquiles in Spanish) was a hero of the Trojan War which was fought about 2300 years ago. Achilles is considered the greatest of all the Greek warriors and was the central character in the ancient epic poem, Homer's Iliad.

Interestingly, the name of this ancient hero was used as a trademark for a spirit that, fortunately, is becoming of increasing interest among some Argentinean producers. This interesting fact occurred in the Rosary city, province of Santa Fe, a territory located north of Buenos Aires on the shores of the Paraná River.

The Aquiles gin is artisanally made using copper stills by Miss Candela Benito, Mrs. Alan and Eros Herrera brothers in a distillery in the Rosary city, province of Santa Fe, a territory located north of Buenos Aires on the shores of the Paraná River. Mr. Alan Herrera said that they started their production at the beginning of 2020. To offer various consumption alternatives, they immediately decided to sell the product in bottles of different sizes, 750, 375, and 100ml, some of which are illustrated in fig.1



Depending on the collector's choice, the latter becomes an object of our interest. The large bottles show an uncommon nice shape, and the little one is presented in a standard cylindrical clear glass bottle commonly used in Argentina. The little bottles are topped with a plastic cap, which is covered by a plastic helmet imitating those used in ancient Greece. The producers stated they wanted to make a London dry gin that stands out and becomes the most chosen.



Then, they inspired its presentation by Greek mythology. To do something distinctive and "fight" in this category that is increasingly popular with artisan producers. They tried to follow a thread between the name, the image on the label representing the Achilles' fury, and the cap with its distinctive helmet.

As seen in the fig.1, there are two brands of Aquiles gin with a 40% alc./vol., the traditional, and the pink hibiscus. The former is made with juniper, coriander, cardamom, angelica root, yerba mate, and citrus. The variant with the reddish hue has a fruity and sweet flavour achieved by infusing the post-distillation gin with the flower of the Hibiscus. As seen in figure 2 this is a native tree with beautiful flowers – also called Jamaica flower- that grows in warm-temperate, subtropical, and tropical regions in South America and Africa. After letting the flowers marinate in the gin, it is filtered then bottled.



Depicted in figure 3 and 4, the 100ml clear glass miniatures are topped with plastic caps covered with black and red helmets. Black for the Premium and Red for the Hibiscus. Each gin flavour has two self adhesive translucent labels. As seen in their respective close-up, those placed on the front are multicolour and beautifully designed representing Achilles' world.

The label on the back provides to the consumers' information related with the gin ingredients as well other relevant and formal data regarding the contents.

These were made in 2020. Needless to say that in this harsh pandemic time, it is nice to see entrepreneurs continuing with their projects and producing nice quality and well presented products.

More from Argentina in the next miNiZ.



*Hugo G. Nami*

# SNAKES ALIVE!

**WARNING: DO NOT OPEN!**



Many of you will have bottles similar to these. They are a real novelty and, although a 'cottage industry' in several Asian countries, there are some larger companies that make these. BEWARE!

A woman in China had to receive hospital treatment after a snake preserved in rice wine jumped out of the bottle and bit her hand. According to the Global Times, the surprise attack happened when the woman, from Shuangcheng, went to top up the bottle with more wine. Remarkably, the snake, which had been pickling for three months, was still alive and bit her (The snake

was probably annoyed at being given more rice wine rather than some nice NZ Sauvignon Blanc). The woman had bought the snake wine to try and cure her rheumatism as it is a widely held belief in China and SE Asia that such wines have medicinal properties.

This one certainly did as it got her to the hospital!

This is not the first incident of a pickled snake seemingly coming back to life. A Mr Zhang of Hubei Province was bitten by a snake in 2009 that had been preserved in a bottle of rice wine for two months, whilst in 2001, a villager from Guangxi Zhuang died a day after being bitten by a pickled snake.

The bottle on the right is Asian and from my own collection. Viper Brandy is unusual in that it is French. This is also a bottle from my own collection. Under NZ Agriculture laws I probably should not have these but they are clearly pickled and no danger to anyone – OR ARE THEY? I will not be opening either of them to find out.



*David Smith*

# AUSTRALIAN BOTTLES

Australian member Graham Ramsay is great at finding new Australian bottles and is a prolific poster of photos of them on-line. He always sends the links to me for both miNiZ and Miniature Bottle Library. I will let the photos speak for themselves.







And yes, the bottles from Lord Howe Island Distilling are Australian. The island is 600km from the mainland in the direction of New Zealand. It is part of the state of New South Wales, not a separate political unit. This info is for those of you who collect a bottle from each country and/or territory.

Contact me on Facebook if you need any more information.

*Graham Ramsay*

# Gin (aka. Mother's Ruin)

The gin craze is still with us so in this article I will try and explain the differences between the various gin styles.

It is not clear when Genever came into existence but there is reference to it in the thirteenth century. The term Dutch courage came about in 1585 when Dutch and English soldiers combined to fight the Spanish and drank Genever to bolster their nerves. The English shortened the name Genever to Gen and finally Gin.

Genever is not the same as gin. The base spirit for Genever is made from grain such as rye, corn or malted barley. The base spirit for gin can be made from anything. Strangely enough the Philippines is the world's largest gin market. They transact 40% of the world sales.

EU regulations state the minimum alcohol level for gin is 37.5%. Traditionally gin has four main botanicals i.e. juniper 60%, coriander seeds about 30% and citrus peel and angelica making up the balance.



Of the commercial gin styles, London Dry Gin is reckoned to be the best. The botanicals are added to the base spirit in the still and boiled. The steam is condensed and collected at a very high proof. After this all that can be added is water to lower the strength and maybe a little sugar. London Dry Gin can be made anywhere as London refers to the style rather than the city. Top examples include Bombay Sapphire, Tanqueray and Gordon's Original Special Dry.

Distilled gin is made the same way as London Dry except the botanicals can be added at any time. Pink gin is really a cocktail. Traditionally it is gin with Angostura Bitters added. Some of the modern pink gins are flavoured with strawberries or red currants.

Plymouth Gin has been around since at least 1793. It is slightly stronger and sweeter than the average gin. It is the gin of choice in





the original martini recipe (1896). Up until 2015 Plymouth Gin had to be made in Plymouth, England but now it can be made anywhere. This is strange as other classic drinks such as Cognac, Sherry and Champagne can only be made in their home regions. Maybe European lawyers are better than English ones. Plymouth gin is a versatile drink as it is the most common base for pink gin.



Navy strength gin must be at least 57% abv i.e. 114 proof. A New Zealand example is Scapegrace Gold (on cover of miNiZ123). A nice bottle to have in your collection is Rock Rose from Dunnet Bay Distillery, Scotland. It comes in a ceramic bottle (unfortunately not in miniature) and is produced near John O'Groats.



Old Tom was a very popular style in 18th century England. The government crack down on cheap gin (Mother's Ruin) basically made it disappear. Hayman's released an Old Tom a few years back in an effort to make it popular again. The addition of syrup makes it slightly sweeter than normal gin but not as sweet as Genever.



A New Zealand company has produced a world first to the gin market. Scapegrace Black is the first black gin. Based in Christchurch the distillers add Aronia berries to give the gin it's colour. When tonic is added the drink turns purple – see miNiZ123.

To show there really is a gin craze, Buckingham Palace is producing it's own gin with many of the botanicals grown in the palace gardens. Unfortunately i do not think it comes in miniature bottles.

*Frank Wynn*

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

Get your article in NOW. Do not wait, do not  
pass GO, do not collect \$200 – do it now!

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

# SPIRIT OF THE ROCK



I came across a photo of a mini from Gibraltar, a place that you very rarely see miniatures from. I contacted the company to see if they made any more and the owner, Peter was very helpful. These pictures are the result.



As well as these there is also a vodka called Moon Lizard but there was no mini of this at the time of writing. They also make a series of cocktails in pouches but these are 200ml. They do mail order.

There is plenty of information about the company on their web site:

<https://www.spiritoftherock.gi/spirit-of-the-rock-our-story/>

*David Smith*

# VAMPIRES

It is strange how an idea for an article can come about. I have a hereditary problem where my body stores too much iron. To lower the iron amount I have some blood taken out every couple of months. The disease only applies to people of Gaelic or Viking descent. And no I do not get the urge to go raping and pillaging. I happened to mention the problem (the iron levels) to David Smith and said it is like visiting the vampires. In his usual bedside manner he said why not write an article on vampires. So dear fuhrer here we go.



An obvious cocktail to excite a vampire would be Bloody Mary. The mixture of vodka and tomato juice should get his fangs moving. It is named after Queen Mary 1 who reigned in England from 1553 till 1558. She was the daughter of Henry VIII. She was a staunch catholic and tried to revert England back to that faith. 280 protestants were burned at the stake and hundreds more left the country. It is because of her Britain has never had a catholic monarch since. It is amazing what you learn from the club magazine. Maybe David should apply for an education grant.

Many of the vampire movies have a bit of titillation so Between The Sheets would be a good fit (sorry, I cannot find a mini of this) (I've found you Sex on the Beach, will that do Frank?). This cocktail first appeared in Paris during the late 1920's. It is a mixture of white rum, cognac, triple sec and lemon juice. After a few of those you would not mind who kissed you. It is also known as Maiden's Prayer.

Arctic Summer is no place for a vampire with 24 hour daylight. The cocktail though would appeal. It is a blend of gin, apricot brandy, grenadine and sparkling bitter lemon.

If we had a sophisticated vampire a good Italian red would appeal. A Barolo or Chianti would slip down very well.





So there you are. If you turn into a vampire there are plenty of drinks to pass the daylight hours away.

The elephant in the room is of course Dracula. I'll finish with a few pictures of Dracula bottles – there are dozens.



Frank (Iron Man) Wynn

# LIONSTONE



Keith Short wrote to me: "Unopened Bottle is 50 ml while cylinder with hole in the middle to accommodate screw holding oak above and below it. Label is Lionstone and now between bottle and oak base. Any info would be appreciated." Keith sent the picture on the left.

I knew that this bottle was not listed on Miniature Bottle Library but something went 'ding' in my mind and I looked up Lionstone in Montague's. When initially putting MBL together I saw the Lantern photo on the right but assumed that this was a large bottle. I now suspect it is a mini in the same series as the Hour Glass.

I wrote back to Keith: "WOW! I suspect you have got a sample bottle, dating from about 1983. Let me explain.



Lantern-Brass  
1983 \$65

When initially setting up MBL I relied extensively on Montague's Modern Bottle & Price Guide (3rd Edition). This covers both large and small bottles but unfortunately only has small B&W photos. It is not 100% accurate as to whether the bottle shown is a large or mini or whether it was a sample or a bottle made in a commercial quantity. There is a picture of a brass lantern (see attachment) which is somewhat similar to what you have. I assumed that this was a large size bottle and at \$65 I think that Montague's did also. I suspect that they got it wrong as that appears to be a white bottle like yours near the top."

Keith replied: "Thank you. I've opened up the oak platforms on the bottle so you have better understanding of the product. I probably purchased it back in the early 1980's at a liquor store in Denver or Littleton, Colorado. It's 4.5" wide, 11.5 tall, and x 6" deep overall with 4.75" sand glass. It just doesn't seem to fit in anywhere in the Lionstone products—yet."



So, there you have it. Probably a sample bottle in a series of two, or maybe two bottles meant to start a series that just did not sell well (at 11.5" it is very big for a mini)

*David Smith*

# ANIMATE YOUR COLLECTION

OK, not quite yet but watch this space.

So what do Abolengo (Peru) Che Guevara, Findhorn (UK) Winston Churchill, Garnier (France) Chess King, Kramer's (Germany) Fire Devil & Ski Country P.T. Barnum have in common?



Check out these links to find out:

<https://www.minisnz.com/Abolengo-Che-Guevara-Animated.mp4>

<https://www.minisnz.com/Findhorn-Winston-Churchill-Animated.mp4>

<https://www.minisnz.com/Garnier-King-Animated.mp4>

<https://www.minisnz.com/Kramers-Fire-Devil-Animated.mp4>

<https://www.minisnz.com/Ski-Country-PT-Barnum-Animated.mp4>

As you can see this currently only works with heads. Freaky though!

These were made, for free, by website <https://www.myheritage.com/> Check out some of the samples on there using old photos. I first tried this using a photo of my great uncle George who died in WWI. Unfortunately the photo has deteriorated so much it would not recognise that it had a face on it.

As there were some animated statues on the site I decided to try a few of my minis. The face has to be reasonably realistic. I thought I could animate some Hoffman Mr. Lucky's but the three I tried would not work.

If you give it a try, and get it to work, send me the bottle photo and animation and I will post them on the website and show the links in the next miNiZ.

*David Smith*

# **HISTORICAL FIGURES #10N**

## **DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES**

Lady Di (1961-1997) as she was popularly known, aka The People's Princess and Princess Diana, will be known to most if not all of you, so I will be brief.

Lady Diana Spencer, as she was known at the time, became the first wife of Prince Charles, the heir to the British Throne. Her two children, William & Harry, were the most popular of the British Royal Family, excluding The Queen of course, but Harry is now very much out of favour. Diana was very highly regarded for her charity work which continued after she was divorced from Prince Charles. She died under suspicious circumstances in a car crash in Paris.



The three 'Royal Wedding' jugs were all made by Rutherford. The Bells bell is a 50ml 'Royal Wedding' bottle. This was the production mini, although there was a brown bell sample (see the parallel article in the MMBC Newsletter for this).



The 4 flasks above and the jug below are all wedding bottles from McLech.





The Loving Cup is another McLech 'Royal Wedding' bottle. This would be by far the hardest of the McLech pieces to obtain.



The flask on the left was made for the birth of Prince William in 1982.

The jugs on the right were made in 2011 by Rutherford. The first depicts Diana with Prince William and a baby prince Harry. The second is Diana with Prince Harry.



The Rutherford Book has a 1980 photo and commemorates her engagement. I think that this was made much later than 1980 – can anyone confirm this?

*David Smith*

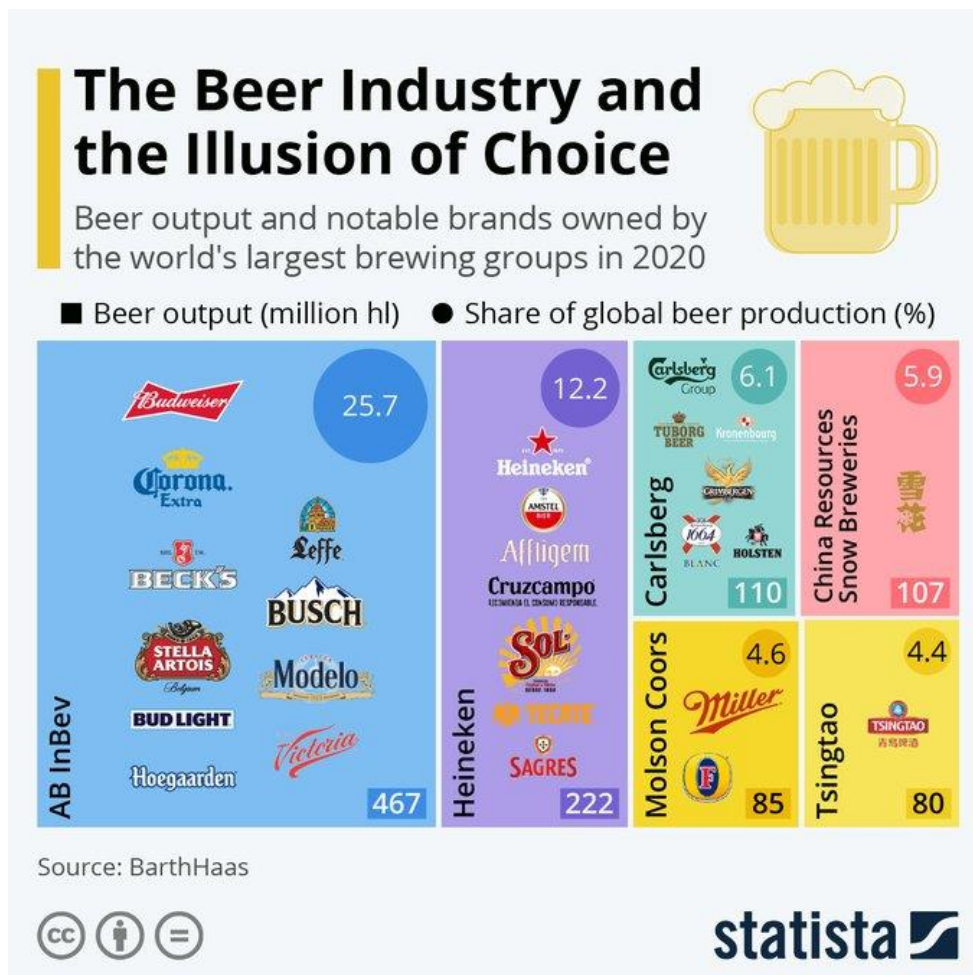
# LARGEST BRANDS?

We tend to be somewhat Western centered when it comes to drink brands so this list of the world's most valuable drinks brand is interesting (to say the least). Value in US\$ in 2020

1. Moutai – \$45.333 billion
2. Wuliangye – \$25.768 billion
3. Yanghe – \$7.088 billion
4. Luzhou Laojiao – \$7.032 billion
5. Gujing Gong Jiu – \$4.048 billion
6. Jack Daniels – \$3.388 billion
7. Hennessy – \$3.294 billion
8. Smirnoff – \$3.196 billion
9. Bacardi – \$2.54 billion
10. Johnnie Walker – \$2.398 billion

Diageo, sort of, has three of these top brands, Smirnoff, Johnnie Walker and Hennessy, where it has a 34% ownership (LMVH has the rest). Note that the top 5 are all Chinese companies. Due to my work on Miniature Bottle Library I have heard of all of these but I would bet that most of you have only heard of one or two.

A similar exercise was done for beers.



1. Corona – \$5.822 billion
2. Heineken – \$5.646 billion
3. Budweiser – \$4.79 billion
4. Victoria – \$4.038 billion
5. Bud Light – \$3.952 billion
6. Snow – \$3.445 billion
7. Modelo – \$3.365 billion
8. Kirin – \$2.853 billion
9. Miller Lite – \$2.85 billion
10. Asahi – \$2.848 billion

Only Budweiser makes the list twice, despite both Budweiser and Bud Light sales going backwards. To our Australian members, no Victoria is not VB, it is a Mexican company. I admit to having had to look it up, as I also did with Snow, which is Chinese but 40% owned by Heineken. It's a very entwined world we live in.

*David Smith*

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## **A COMPLETE RIP-OFF**

In miNiZ128 I showed you a bottle of Tequila made for Tesla Motors. The picture shows three bottles from Train Winery from, you guessed it, China. I have included the Tesla bottle for comparison.



There is, of course, just a passing resemblance!!! The Train bottles are filled with a rosé, an XO, 7yo brandy and an icewine. As with Tesla, no minis I know of.

On the winery's WeChat public account, the brand positions its products as “similar” to what Tesla has to offer.

All I can say is it's lucky for them that Elon Musk is a very busy man.

*David Smith*

# NEW MINI BOTTLE CLUB

In the 1970's there was a very active mini bottle club in Argentina, which, unfortunately, eventually closed. As of August this year there is a new Argentine club – GREAT, with 50 members – better still! They have a Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/club.argentino.coleccionistas.botellitas>

*Acta de Fundación*

Buenos Aires, 17 Agosto 2021

## Club Argentino de Coleccionistas de Botellitas

**Misión:** Promover y difundir en Argentina el coleccionismo de botellitas y envases en miniatura de bebidas espirituosas, vinos, destilados y bebidas sin alcohol hasta 125ml.

**Visión:** Conformar lazos de amistad con otros clubes de coleccionistas nacionales e internacionales.

**Valores:** La ética, el compromiso y la camaradería son nuestros principales pilares.



### Comisión Directiva

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