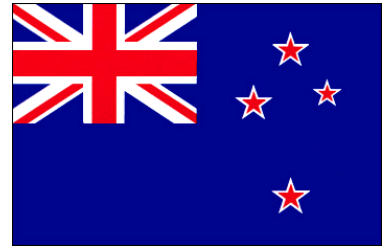


Issue 94

Spring 2011



miNiZ

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW ZEALAND MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



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

THIS & THAT & COVER BOTTLE

Our thanks to Ken Chin for finding The Spirit of Dunedin Scotch bottle, in Dunedin of course. A nice bottle and a welcome addition to my collection but a pity that it is plastic rather than glass.

Having said that, it is probably appropriate for this edition which has a number of articles on 'off-beat' bottles. Bottles being a very broad term in this case – read on.



Apart from the Dunedin bottle from Ken, I have received very few photos from members for this edition. Peter Bonkovich sent the Laphroaig photo. This sold on Ebay for a massive £266 - still a lot of money despite the low exchange rate of sterling at the moment.

I found the bottle on the right whilst looking for bottles for Miniature Bottle Library. I just liked it and thought that you might too.



The Rutherford jug to the left was sent to me, with my MBL hat on, by Andy Abco. Andy sent several photos but he also asked if I knew what organisation this was made for. No, but I was intrigued enough to find out and it was not difficult. I guessed that the FC was football club and Rutherfords is from Montrose. In fact the company name is Montrose Pottery, Rutherford being a trade name.



Another bottle, or in this case, the pair of bottles on the right, was sent to me by Satu Virta from Finland. They were made by Nannerl of Austria and Satu bought them off a visiting cruise ship. How true! Another His & Her pair that I came across recently were the Scotch & Sherry bottles from McLech.



Starting the next page we have a pair of NZ bottles from Waimaku Brewing Company. We have shown the one on the far right before but not the other. I was not aware that there were

any variations with this set. If you have the set please have a look at <http://www.minibottlelibrary.com/mbl/alpha/waimaku-brewing-co/index.html> and let me know if you have any more variations.



The Rugby World Cup is in full swing in New Zealand as I write this. So far I have not seen any bottles made for it - pity. The photo on the left was sent to me by David Spaid. These bottles were made for the Winter Olympics in Albertville, France, in 1992. The top three contain brandy but I cannot tell you what the bottom four contain.



David also sent us the photo on the right. This set has two 100ml? flasks (Volare also make a red flask) and a crystal decanter. Undoubtedly one of the nicer mini sets.

I would REALLY appreciate more input to miNiZ from you and the other members. miNiZ needs to be written by more than me. An editor is meant to edit – please send me an article so that I may do that.



A reminder, again, that club members are entitled to a page on the web site. Contact me if you would like to do this, email: minizv@gmail.com, and I will organise it for you.

David Smith

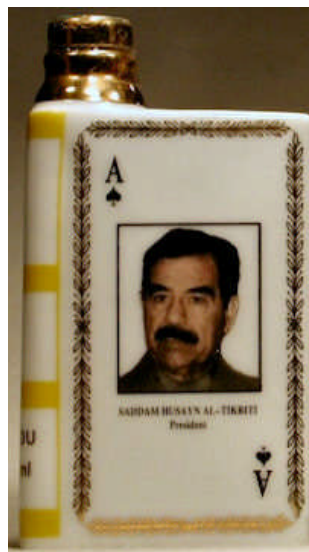
MINIATURE 'BAD BOYS'



The first three sets I have to show you came from Alpa of Italy. They came up for auction on Ebay and I would have been a buyer if the seller had not stated an astronomical postage cost - bad marketing as he only sold one of the three sets, and that for the minimum bid. All three sets come in the same wooded display box and say they contain wine, but all are filled with water. These bottles are small at about 11ml but the label detail is excellent.



On the far left we have Mussolini, below that is Che Guevara and finally, on the right, we have Hitler.



We have shown the book showing Saddam Husein before. It is one of a set of 6 from Elk of China and features the playing card that was issued to the US troops to help identify him and the other 'baddies.' It contains brandy.

The Mao Tse-Tung on the far right is from La Regia of Italy and probably dates from the 1970's. The contents are unknown. The nearest Mao is also from Italy, and probably from the same mould, this time from Old Store. This company was owned by the same owner as Alpa and all their minis, as far as I am aware, are filled with Scotch. On the top of the next page we have a number of other 'bad boy' Old Store busts that I will let speak for themselves.





So, who is a 'bad boy?' All the above were popular, at least in their own country, at one time. Should Lenin be included? Your choice but he started a movement that led to Stalin killing more of his own countrymen than any other dictator, before or since. Napoleon is certainly not a 'bad boy' if you are French, but he did not exactly make himself popular in the rest of Europe. On that basis, here are a few more Napoleons.



The busts above are from Tanneur and Teichenne of France and both contain Cognac. The brown bust has also been issued by Courvoisier. The bust on the left was made by Sassano-e-paganini of Italy. The smaller standing Napoleon comes from Todisco of Italy. This bottle has been filled by a number of other Italian producers, including Alpa, DVM and Linfa Salus. The taller Napoleon is also from Italy but I have not been able to find out who made it. There are many more 'Napoleon' bottles, see <http://www.minibottlelibrary.com/mbl/alpha/themes/napoleon.html>

The 'bad boys' which we start the next page with were all traitors to their country. Today some, if not all, would be called terrorists. All of them rebelled against their king and, if caught, would probably have

been hanged. As with Napoleon, one man's traitor is another man's hero.....



The above are from the 'Patriot Series' by McCormick and contain bourbon. I will resist the temptation to show you Robert E. Lee lest I lose the remainder of our US members! Nor will I feature Alexander the Great as only the Persians (now Iranians) think of him as a 'bad boy' and who cares about the Iranians?



Sticking with North America we have General Francisco Pancho Villa. Most, if not all, of our US members (if we have any left) would agree that Pancho Villa was a 'bad boy.' These bottles are from Pancho Villa but have also been issued by Grenadier.



To the Mongols, Ghengis Khan is a hero. To the rest of us, Ghengis and his Mongul hoards were some of the most bloodthirsty terrorists in history. He got as far as Eastern Europe and would undoubtedly have overrun the whole of Europe if his father had not died. This frosted glass stand is from Erica Mulder's collection and was made for the Malaysian market.



I nearly forgot this other Che Guevara from Abolengo of Peru. I have pictured it before but such a great bottle deserves a second look. As with most Peruvian bottles it is filled with pisco.

David Smith

THAT BOTTLE IS FROM WHERE?

A number of collectors around the world, including member Jim Crawford, collect one bottle from every possible country and territory they can find. I have recently come across a few unusual ones so I thought I would share them. In another article in this issue I have shown you 'bottles' from Malawi, Ghana, Uganda, Kenya, Colombia and Malaysia, so I will ignore these countries, even though you would rarely see bottles from them.

The first territorial bottle is on the right. It is from Saint Pierre & Miquelon. Do you know where that is? Answer at the end.



The first country we have is Andorra, a lovely little country sandwiched between France and Spain, high in the Pyrenees. I have been there three times and would happily go again. They make a large range of minis for the tourist trade, the three on the left being a very small sample.

On the right we have four bottles

from Corsica. This is a French island in the Mediterranean. You may have seen other bottles from here as they do not necessarily have Corsica on the label.



Bottles from the UK, especially Scotland, are very common, but bottles from Wales are much less common. The only Welsh bottles we have shown before are Swn Y Mor and Swn Y Don. All of these bottles contain Welsh whisky, apart from the Merlyn Welsh Cream Liqueur.



We start the next page with a selection of bottles from Lebanon. Bottles with alcohol in them from Muslim or predominantly Muslim countries are comparatively rare although there do seem to have been more than usual made in Lebanon (the large Christian minority is probably to thank for this). At least some of these bottles are still being made. I love the tall blue El Massaya Arak bottle and this is certainly still in production:

<http://www.massaya.com/old/arak.htm>



Other than Finlandia Vodka how many bottles have you seen from Finland. The above is a selection for you.

On the right we have four bottles from Belize. That's in Central America if you didn't know, as are the next few countries. Cane Juice is a vodka, 1 Barrel and Old Master are rums and the flask contains Belize whisky.



Heading south or west from Belize we come to Guatemala, represented by the raffia wrapped rum on the far left. Going east again we have the three bottles from Honduras. The raffia wrapped bottle, Vaca Negra, is a coffee liqueur and the other two rums.

Going east again we come to El Salvador. The two leather wrapped bottles are similar to many made in Peru.



Our final two bottles are from Laos. Both are from Done Sao and contain snake whisky - and a snake!

Ok, so where is Saint Pierre & Miquelon? It is a piece of France on the east coast of North America, adjacent to Canada. So how many of our US members know that they can drive to France?

David Smith

MINIATURE BOTTLES?!?

Some collectors will not collect bottles over a certain size, 50ml, 60ml, 75ml etc. Others will not collect plastic bottles or empty bottles or.... Some, myself included, collect just about any bottles. In my own case I count any bottle 100ml or less as a miniature and am quite happy to collect empty ceramics and micros with coloured water or even micros that are dummies. Many mini bottle collectors also collect mini cans (which all contain water).

But would you collect sachets, tubes, squeezeable tubes, plastic shot glasses or Tetra Paks if they contained drink? I have seen lots of plastic shot glasses and a few sachets in some NZ collections and a few more overseas so I thought it about time that we featured these off-beat 'bottles.' We will also be featuring 'bottles' from counties that most of you will not have seen a mini bottle from before.



We will start with a number of sachet from Africa. OK, so who has seen booze from Malawi before? Malawi Gin and Powers No.1 Dry (cane) Spirit are both 30ml sachets and are both from Malawi Distillers. Pusher Gin Bitters is from Gihoc Distillers of Ghana. I don't know the quantity but I do know that they also make Captain's Dry Gin, Captain's Whisky and Playboy Liqueur in sachets. Royal Whisky is another 30ml sachet. This comes from Uganda and the company also makes Royal Vodka and sells it in sachets.



Sticking with Africa we have three sachets from Kenya Distillers. The first Bond & Whisky is again 30ml, this time we have the strength, 37.5%. The Second Bond 7 is a 50ml sachet with the strength not shown. Beehive Brandy is 50ml at 40%. We go next door, to Tanzania, for our next sachet, Valeur VO Brandy from Tanzania Distillers. This is also a 50ml sachet.



Our last three African sachets are both from South Africa. Tsars Imperial Vodka appears to be from a company of the same name. This is a 50ml, 43% sachet. Pocket Shots Vodka 'Be Tempted' (she could tempt me!) appears to be the first sachet from Pocket Shots. It is the same quantity and strength as the last sachet. Pocket shots also make a range of 50ml, 80 proof sachets of at least seven spirits, all similar to the vodka shown.

So, where else makes sachets? Gold Rush Vodka is from Adventure Jaya in Malaysia. The sachet contains 40ml at 38%. Viuda De Romero Tequila is from Mexico, where else? Again, 40ml, 38%. Another South American company making sachets is Puro Colombia, from Colombia. Shown is Aguardiente in a blue sachet of only 10ml (@ 29°) – hardly a taste! There is also a red version and a yellow sachet containing Ron (rum) Anejo at 35°.



I have to admit to thinking of drinks packaged like this to be from third world countries but the next few were surprise.

We start the next page with four sachet bank notes. The first is a DM1000 'note' from Trinkeld of Germany. This contains 2cl of Wodka Blutorange at 16.5%. The other three bank notes are from Czechoslovakia. The 200, 1000 and 5000 Krona 'notes' were made by Zenden. Each contains 25ml of vodka at 40%.



The Vladivar and the two Whyte and McKay sachets were made by a contract sachet filler in the UK for various companies. I know of a few more but there are probably dozens if not hundreds. The Vladivar is 25ml at 37.5% and both the Whyte & McKay are 25ml at 40%.

Enough of sachets, but if you have one not shown here please send me a photo.



The four Tetra Paks are all from Colombia, but I feel sure that there must have been some made elsewhere. The first two are from Fábrica De Licores y Alcoholes de Antioquia (catchy name!). The brown one contains 65ml of Ron Medellin and the blue 65ml of Aguardiente Antioqueño. The other two are from Empresa de Licores de Cundinamarca. The green one contains 20ml of Nectar Club Aguardiente at 24%. The blue contains Nectar Azul Aguardiente. I presume that this is also 20ml as it was the same size as the other on the original photo.

I refer to the next bottles as Toothpaste Tubes, although correctly they are squeezeable tubes. I have only found these from one company, Go Wodka of Austria. There are dozens of them so just four representative ones are being shown.



Strictly speaking these are not miniatures as they are mainly 195ml but they are no bigger than many true minis. Don't expect to get drunk on these as they range in strength from 4% to 10.5%.



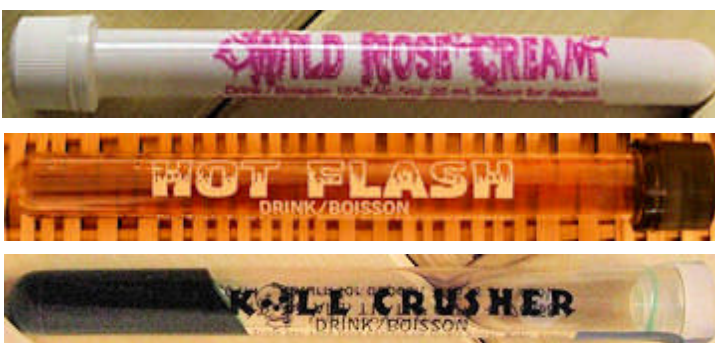
Zulu42 is the only miniature drink spray can that I know of. This is a German 50ml vodka-lemon 'drink' at 18%. I wonder whether you get drunk quicker when you spray the booze? If so, why only 18%?

Tubes! There are probably hundreds, some 'respectable' ones with good Scotch or Cognac that mainstream collectors would generally collect, and others 'trashy' mixers. We will stick with the latter in this article but I will re-visit the 'respectable' tubes at a later date.

I am starting with two NZ tubes that are more substantial than most. These have both been pictured before but not many collectors, even NZ collectors, have these.



Both are from sets of three. The Barrelshot shown is Vodka Load, vodka and orange. Not shown are a green Tequila Lime and a black one whose contents I don't know. All are 40ml, 22.5%. Has anyone got a set of these? I want them! The Isotope shown is, as you can see, Rum Colada. There is also Bourbon Mint and Tequila Lime. All are 60ml, 23%. I have a set of these for sale if anyone wants them.



We go to Canada for the next tubes. The three on the left are from Highwood. Shown are Wild Rose Cream, Hot Flash and Skull Crusher but there are many more than this made by this company. All are 20ml and the Wild Rose Cream is 15%, but I have no strength information on the others.

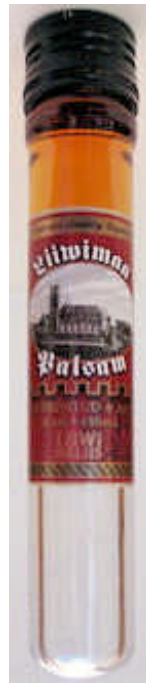
Not all companies making these 'off-beat' bottles are little known. Red Bull made both the Kick80 Black Vodka and CyBar. These tubes are 20ml with the Kick80 at 80% but I do not know the strength of the CyBar. The Kick80 also comes in plain and red vodka and the CyBar in green.



Tooter from the US make our next tubes. Zipper Head and Mellon Balls, with the rip-tops, are I believe the oldest. There are at least 6 of these. Unfortunately I do not know either the quantity or strength. Blue Kamikazi is one of at least three tubes that are

probably current.

These are 50ml but the strength again alludes me.



Liiwimaa Balsam is from Liiwi Heliis, a substantial manufacturer from Estonia. The liquor is at 45% but I do not know the quantity. A couple of months ago Liiwi Heliis was shut down by the Estonian government as it had been fiddling the excise tax for years.



The Shot38 tubes are from Lebanon. All are 38ml, hence the Shot38. There is a series of flavoured vodka and schnapps. Shown are

mandarin vodka and banana schnapps. The black tube is whisky and there are also brandy, gin and rum. Mexican Tequila Shot is from, you guessed it, Peru. (or maybe you didn't!) This is a 30ml tube with the Tequila at 38%.

Einhorn and Kogalochler are from Edelbrände of Germany. Unfortunately I have no other information for you.



Split shot glasses, like the one shown on the left, have been made in at least three countries, NZ, Australia and the UK.

We start on the next page with two from Bacchus of Australia, Cowgirl and QF. Cowgirl contains 15ml of cream and 15ml of strawberry liqueur at 20% and the QF shot contains 15ml of cream and 15ml of Melon Schnapps at 15%. Some of the names are the same as those

made by Independent Liquor of NZ, so I suspect that Bacchus is a subsidiary.



Atomic and Twistee are both from Independent Liquor of New Zealand. These are also 30ml, the Atomic being a guarana and herbal liqueur and the Twistee, blueberry and vanilla. Twistee comes in at least four more flavours. They have made at least 30 of these split shots. Names include Rattlesnake, B52, On The Beach, Texas Ranger, Baby Irish and many more. They have also manufactured many of the same brands in the UK under the name Independent Distillers.



The two plastic shot glasses to the left are both vodkas from the Czech Republic, possibly from the same company. Both are 40ml, 40%.



Also from the Czech Republic are the Gin and Tuzemak from Gemersky. There is also a vodka and



probably more. All are 40%, 40ml, as are our next three Czech shot glasses (plastics?). Borovicka, Vodka and Euroum are from Panak. I know of one other and, again, there are almost certainly more. And there are also more Czech companies making similar shots. Sticking with Europe we have Agent 004 from Um Tuzemsky of Slovenia – I can't tell you any more.

We start the next page still in Europe, but way north of Slovenia, in Estonia. Old Thomas Vodka is 0.01 litre at 40% and is either





designed for the tourist trade or for export as the writing is largely in English. MBL describes this and the next five as a cup, rather than a shot glass, because of the size. Sticking with northern Europe we have Pshenychnaya vodka from the Ukraine. This is obviously made from wheat but I have no other information. Russkaya is a Russian vodka. This is another 0.01 litre, 40% cup



The next four plastic cups are also filled with vodka and again are 100ml at 40%. All are from Israel. Moskov Skaya is the shot immediately to the left. Russia and Best Food are both made by Best Food, and finally we have Alaska.



There are probably hundreds of more plastic shots and cups that have been made around the world – and I have not even counted the rigid plastic variety, of which there have been at least 33 made in NZ alone.

Well, are these ‘bottles’ or not? Are they worthy of being collected? Do you collect them? Let me know.

As usual, if you have any pictures of ‘bottles’ not shown here or in Miniature Bottle Library please send them.

David Smith

WHAT AN ODD BOTTLE!

I have trawled through Miniature Bottle Library to find the most unusual or bizarre bottles I can for this article. If anyone thinks that they can beat these then send me a photo and I will include it is the next miNiZ.

What a relief that I found our first bottle. This is from an unknown Korean company, who also make a tasteful cream version. There are at least two more WC's, one from Groppi of Italy.



The 'thing' on the left could have been meant to be a breast if it did not have a handle. It reminds me of a mini vacuum cleaner. I know that it contains apricot brandy but don't know the manufacturer or even what country it was made in.

Gotas de Santiago (tears of Santiago) Aguardiente de Orujo Envejecido is from Spain. It is very small, even for a mini, being only 5ml in volume - but then tears are small.



The Don Valente tequila on the right looks a bit like a golf ball from the angle of this shot. It is actually a bottle stopper that is also a bottle in it's own right. This is one of several made by Don Valente, all 30ml, all containing tequila of different qualities. Unfortunately to get this bottle you have to buy the 700ml decanter type bottle.



OK, I give up, what is this? It contains 100ml of Cancun Reposado Tequila at 38%. Nice bottle, I think, but how would I know as I don't know what it represents?

On the right we have one of a number of ashtray bottles made by Luxardo of Italy. It contains Cherry Ardo, a cherry liqueur. On the next page we have another ashtray, this time from Bishoff of Italy, who have made at least 10 different ones. This contains 10 year old VSOP brandy at 84 proof.





Ah, just what I always wanted, an ashtray to drink out of!

Now that's more like it! The breast bottle was made by the Midwest Miniature Bottle Club for their bottle fair in 1980. I have no idea as to what is in it but I bet that it isn't milk.



The Schnapps-O-Flex camera is from Swank of Germany. This is the only camera miniature that I know of.



Again, the chocolate bar from Suntory is the only chocolate bar bottle that I know of. Surprising really. No, it does not contain any sort of chocolate liqueur. I has in it VSOP brandy.



There have been a number of bottles made in the shape of a clock but the Manhattan Carriage Clock is undoubtedly the best. It dates from the 1930's and contains peach and honey liqueur.

The stone is from Suvenir of Argentina. It contains Damasco liqueur. This

bottle has also been filled by Artishoque, another Argentinean company.



A bit like the ashtrays and WC, why would you want to drink out of an oil drum? Rohl is from Behn of Germany. It contains 0.1 litre of bitters at 35%.

The finger is also German, made by a company called Bolmen.

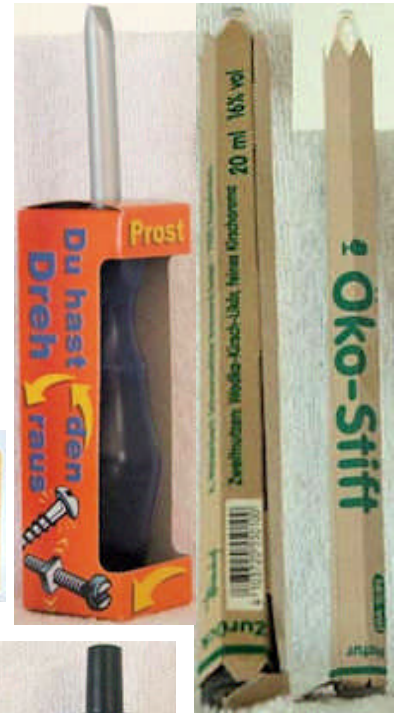
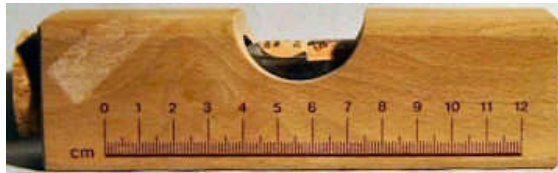


The fishing float is from Ducastaing of France. There are at least three of these and all contain armagnac.





The Weisenbach company of Germany has made a number of very unusual minis. The first four are almost a do-it-yourself joinery kit. We have a mallet, screwdriver, pencil and spirit level. As far as I am aware, Weisenbach are the only company to have made miniatures in the shape of all four of these objects. All four can be considered rare.



Four more bottles unique to Weisenbach are the cellphone, thermometer, weight and watch. Weisenbach have made two different cellphone bottles.



I thought that the poster pillar was also a unique bottle but have just found another one on-line from a different company.



The German helmet bottle is the oldest I have to show you in this article, dating from around 1900. However this is not German, it was made by Max Fruhauf Co. of Cincinnati. There is also a brown version and both contain Helmet brand rye.



The bottle kiln (far left) is from McLech of the UK. These kilns were used extensively in the pottery industry until superceded by electric kilns. There have been a number of pens made but Forcoll is the only company to make an inkwell.

Bols has been one of the more prolific manufacturers of ceramic miniatures over the years but the Lobster Claw must surely be the most unusual. I understand that this was made for the Chanel Islands market.





The morning star (an ancient weapon) is one of my favourite unusual bottles, although actually it is two. Each spiked ball contains 100ml of Lacrima Cristi from Artistica Artigiana of Italy.



I had forgotten about the pipe from Suvenir of Argentina when I showed you the ashtrays above. This is a 3-in-1 object, a pipe, an ashtray and a 60cc bottle of whisky. Surprisingly only two companies have made bottles in the shape of a rocket. Shown is one of a number made by Casali of Austria.

Strictly speaking, the saddle is not a miniature as it contains 200ml of Charrerta Tequila. I had to include it as it is the only saddle bottle I am aware of.



The artillery shell is one of at least 28 different from Ancora of Portugal. There are a number of companies that have made bullets but this is the only one that I know of to make shell bottles.



I would have expected there to be quite a number of sea shell bottles but the set from Giuffrida of Italy and the only scallop shells I know of. Courvoisier make a really classy conch shell. - and that's it for shells.



A spark plug is not the first thing you think of when you want a drink but it is at least reasonably bottle shaped. This is one of at least two made by Dor of Argentina and at least two other companies have made spark plug bottles.



Finally, two great 'straight' bottles from Thailand Unique. The bottle on the right contains 125ml of banana flavoured scorpion liqueur - and a scorpion! On the right we have a 50ml Californian King Snake whisky bottle. Great idea these, a drink and a meal!



David Smith

