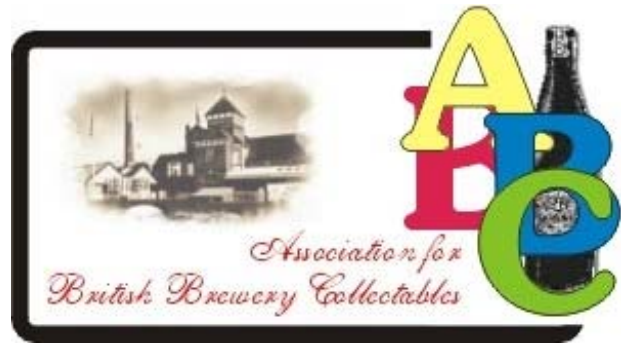


What's Bottling



April 2012

ISSUE 150

The Newsletter and Journal of the Association for British Brewery Collectables



A recently discovered collection of Whitbread final brew 'Celebration Ale' bottles from "The Exchange Brewery" Sheffield. Oak Matured, two versions (more on page 13)

EDITORIAL,

The start of another year and I suspect another collecting Frenzy ahead with the forthcoming Diamond Jubilee, Euro 2012 and The Olympic Games.

Love it or hate it E-Bay seems to be continuing its march to take over all areas of collecting , there are however still bargains and finds to be had you just have to work a little harder to find them.

Our February meeting in Stoke proved to be a productive meeting in terms of ideas and suggestions for forthcoming events.

Dave Taylor our honourable Chairman is again holidaying in Rugby this June and so has organised a second social get together , it was an enjoyable event last year so why not join us on what guarantees to be a good social event and a possible swapping and dealing frenzy as new bottles continue to appear for the Diamond Jubilee etc...

We are presently in the process of planning further meetings throughout the year so if you have any ideas or suggestions please let me know, the more interesting the better.

Once again my thanks go to the usual suspects for your much appreciated material for the newsletter and the usual reminder that we are looking for a new newsletter editor so please give it a thought.

Finally many apologies for the late arrival of this newsletter due to unforeseen personal circumstances. Cheers for now. Rod

Forthcoming Meeting:

Following a very enjoyable social event in Rugby last year our chairman has decided to repeat this occasion again this year , the meeting will take place on Saturday 16th June.

A first for the ABBC , we have decided to hold our June social at The Rugby Beer Festival. The festival is usually quiet on the Saturday afternoon and offers perfect meeting facilities such as ample free parking right next to the entrance , easy access by road or rail , food available all day and of a good selection of beers available. Entrance is free to all Camra and ABBC members. The festival is also a very short walk from both "The Merchants "and "The Victoria Inn".

We have been allocated our own space and it may also be an ideal opportunity to attract new members?

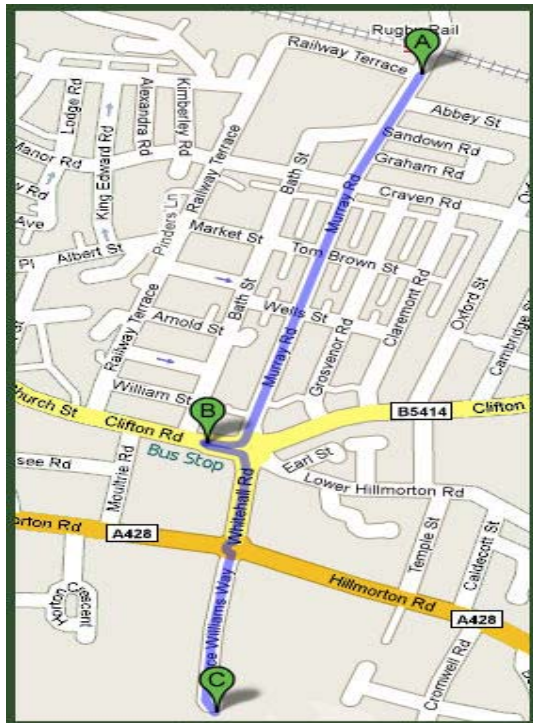
This promises to be a great success and the perfect opportunity to collect / swap recently produced Diamond Jubilee bottles.

Rugby CAMRA 29th Beer & Cider Festival:

Sat. 16th 2012, 50+ Real Ales. Range of Ciders, Perry & Foreign Beers, Thornfield Bowling Club, Adj. to Ken Marriott Leisure centre, Hillmorton Rd, Rugby, Warwickshire. CV22 5LJ

ARRIVING By Train

Rugby station is on the West Coast Main Line with direct links to Coventry, Birmingham, Northampton and London. It is a 15-20 minute walk to the Bowls club or the number 4 bus runs from just outside the station every 12 minutes. If you get off at the Clifton Road (Lawrence Sheriff School) stop, it is a 10 minute walk to the IBC from there. . Taxis are also always outside the station and cost approx £3.50.



Walking directions from the station

Turn right out of the station on to Murray Road. Walk all the way up Murray Road to the roundabout and cross over to Whitehall Road opposite.

Walk to the end of Whitehall Road and cross over the roundabout to Bruce Williams Way opposite. Walk all the way down Bruce Williams Way and turn left at the bottom. Walk until you reach the Indoor Bowling Club.

Walking directions from Clifton Road Bus Stop

Exit the bus and turn left. Walk to the roundabout and turn right on to Whitehall Road. Follow directions from Whitehall Road above.

Traveling by car:

From Junction 1 of the M6, Leave the Motorway at Junction 1 and take the A426 signposted Rugby. At the fourth island bear left towards the Rugby Town Centre. Pass the Police Station on the left and at the next traffic island, carry straight on up the dual carriageway until you reach the traffic lights. Turn left along the A428 signposted Northampton. Pass Rugby School on your right and continue for about half a mile to the next island. Turn right along Bruce Williams Way, signposted Sports Centre - turn left at the mini roundabout and the Club is ahead of you.

From Junction 18 M1 at Crick : Leave the Motorway at Junction 18. If traveling from the North go under the motorway and proceed along the A428. If traveling from the South go down the slip road and bear left also along the A428. At first roundabout (200 yds) turn left go straight over the second and third roundabouts and proceed along the A428 towards Rugby. After passing through four sets of pedestrian lights and one set of traffic lights you turn left at the next island, Proceed down Bruce Williams Way to the mini island and turn left. The Club is immediately ahead of you.

BOTTLE NEWS:

The First One ! Castle Rock Brewery presents DIAMOND REIGN 1952-2012 to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee .

Thanks to Richard for the following list of Brewers planning to release a commemorative bottle for the forthcoming Diamond Jubilee :

Welton's Busy Lizzy, Wadworths, Windsor & Eton Tree Tops & Kohinoor, St.Austell for Marks & Spencer, Three Castles, Harvey's Elizabethan Ale, Chiltern, Blue Anchor, Old Luxtor's, Oxfordshire Ales, Sam Brookes, Pitfield, Ballards, Verulam, Nelson Brewing Truman's, West Berks Havant, Farmers Ales Maulden Sovereign Ale , The Havant bottle is Diamond Light Ale.

Lord Conrad's Brewery @ Bar Hill Cambs are also producing a limited Edition Bottle, (Breaking news ABBC editor wins competition to name beer !!)

Both St Austell and Chiltern Brewery have launched a limited-edition (1000 bottles) Champagne style bottled ale.

Wolf Brewery of Norfolk have bottled Poppy Ale for the Norwich branch of The Royal British Legion..

The Labologists Society Sept/Oct Newsletter lists recent Commemorative brews from no less than 58 different breweries (too many to list, sorry ..) my favourite from the list has to be Glastonbury Ales "Well Mown" for The Old Lawnmower Club 21st Anniversary! Isle of Purbeck have produced Force Four for the sailing Olympics in Weymouth ,Dorset brewing co have bottled Yachtsman for the sailing Olympics apparently breweries are not mentioning the Olympics on the label as they have to pay branding rights. Camden Town brewery produced Elephant Pale ale for the Olympic games this recipe recreates the beer brewed for the 1908 games, Palmers Bridport have done a bottle for the town hall restoration fund I have spares so will be available in Rugby if anyone wants one. cheers Dave Taylor

Further to my previous article in "What's Bottling" : Another whisky beer just acquired is Harviestoun Ola Dubh Special 12 Reserve (Black Oil) an 8% beer aged in casks formally used to mature Highland Park 12 yr old single malt whisky produced for the American market, numbered & dated with a neck tag containing whisky notes. They also do a 16 & 18 reserve.

Andy Farmer.

The Fat Cat Brewery

ANNIVERSARY ALE

Alc 7.4% Vol. - 500ml.

Celebrating 20 Years

This superb, Belgian-style ale has been 20 months in production, from first mash to bottling. Unfiltered and unfinned, it pours a slightly hazy golden colour, with a delicate lacy head - constantly replenished by a gentle effervescence. Aromatic malts from across Europe, combine with a Belgian yeast strain, to give a full-bodied, easy drinking beer. The initial aromas are of breadfruit and banana - merely hinting at the symphony of ripe fruit flavours which will send your tastebuds into overdrive - while the velvety mouthful seduces your tongue, before a warming, winy afterglow suffuses your entire mouth and throat. Brewed to celebrate both the 500th brew at the Fat Cat Brewery and 20 years of The Fat Cat pub, this beer is a fitting tribute to the success of both enterprises.



**Limited Edition
Only 720 Bottles Produced
£5.95 Each**

On a recent visit to one of my favourite pubs "The Fat Cat" in Norwich I noticed for sale bottles of Anniversary Ale celebrating 20 years of success at the pub.

I then discovered that they had also produced a bottle ten years previous for their first that anniversary.. Rod

The Ideal Gift for Christmas

ON SALE NOW!!

I noticed in my local paper recently that Hobsons Brewery produced a special brew for The Golden Cross Pub at Clee Hill Shropshire, renamed The Cross Hedgehog for the night to celebrate the 30th anniversary celebrations of the British Hedgehog Preservation Society. Hobson's of Cleobury Mortimer produced Old Prickly and for every pint and bottle sold Hobson's donated £5 to the charity. Local Swift the Bakers made Hedgehog bread for the buffet and Mc Donald's re-designed the lids for their ice cream cartons after finding hedgehogs were getting stuck in them. All good stuff for the endangered hedgehog.

If any members are interested in a bottle please let me know www.birchesmill@btinternet.com and I will try and get some.

Some further news a pint boxed bottle of Tennants 1985 Centenary Lager went up for auction at McTears in mint condition unfortunately I was unsuccessful. I bid £16 it went for £18 (in fact about £40 when commission and postage taken into account)

Cheers , Andy Farmer



CHILTERN Brewery Commemorative ale to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.

Prestigious champagne style ale for this landmark royal occasion. In order to help celebrate we have brewed just 1000 numbered bottles, producing a rich amber ale with creamy honey notes and hints of citrus. A time-honoured classic with a sparkling finish!

TIPPLEFAIR 2012

Organised by the Pub History Society in Association with the Peterborough Beer Festival

Saturday August 25th from Midday to 5pm

‘Beer, Spirits and Drink Related Collectables’

‘Beer mats, bottles & labels, ash trays, pump clips, water jugs, Guinness items, playing cards, bar towels, clocks, openers, key rings, matchboxes, books, showcards, posters, invoices & letterheads, pump handles, lapel pins, bar fonts, whisky and spirit items and many other related items plus society stands.’

Now part of the Peterborough Beer Festival

Located on the River Nene Embankment 10 minutes walk from the City Centre and 15 minutes walk from the Peterborough Railway Station and Queensgate Bus Station.
Visitor parking nearby.

Food and very large real ale bar available from Midday.

Admission to Tipplefair and Beer Festival is £2 (CAMRA Members £1) from 12-3pm and £5 from 3pm onwards. Please note **THERE IS NO EARLY ENTRY TO TIPPLEFAIR THIS YEAR.** Beer festival is open all day until 11pm.
Pre booked Exhibitor Parking onsite from 9am for unloading and setup.

And to announce this year's bargain! Anyone who collects Fullers Vintage Ales or like me just enjoy drinking them, Fullers are presently selling some of the earlier years at £24.00 for a mixed case of 12 or £40.00 for two cases. The following may be of interest, Rod

Fullers Vinyage Ale Tasting Notes

Vintage Ale 1997

Brewed on 18th May and 22nd July 1997 this is the first in the portfolio of Vintage Ales. Dark in appearance, the taste is almost brandy like with a hint of fruitiness in the aroma.

Vintage Ale 1998

The second in the series, this Vintage Ale was based on a Champion theme with the addition of Champion Alexis malt and Champion Northdown aroma hops. The result is a sweet, warming, creamy ale that is beautifully balanced.

Vintage Ale 1999

The Champion theme was used once again for this classic Vintage Ale with Champion Fuggles and Champion Optic malt. Slightly redder in appearance, this ale is full of body with a sherry-like flavour.

Vintage Ale 2000

85,000 bottles of Vintage Ale were produced with an organic theme, using Champion Optic Malt and Organic Target Hops. A fresh hop aroma with notes of honey and toffee, leads to a slightly sweeter taste and burnt, bitter aftertaste.

Vintage Ale 2001

Only 30,000 bottles were produced and packaged of this 'back to tradition' based brew. Maris Otter malted barley malt was used to create this wonderful golden ale that delivers a lingering bitterness full of flavour.

Vintage Ale 2002

As the year of the Golden Jubilee the golden theme was applied to this special commemorative Vintage Ale. Goldings hops and Golden Promise malt were used to produce this copper coloured ale with a fruity, orange peel aroma and a spicy, satisfying taste.

Vintage Ale 2003

50,000 bottles were brewed using a traditional recipe of Target, Challenger and Northdown hop varieties. The taste is rich with notes of marmalade, raisins and Christmas cake; the spicy hops well balanced with a pleasant bitterness.

Vintage Ale 2004

95,000 bottles were produced for 2004's Vintage, which once again employed a traditional approach, this time brewed with Golding's hops and Maris Otter malt. Distinctive cherry notes are evident, before a warming finish that mellows with age.

Vintage Ale 2005

This Vintage has spicy and peppery notes on the nose followed by a hint of toffee and vanilla. An incredibly well rounded beer, the malt flavours are softened by the spicy, citrus notes from the Fuggles hops.

Vintage Ale 2006

This full-bodied vintage is brewed with Fuggles and Super Styrian hops that create a tapestry of rich, spicy flavours. Orange, citrus and fruitcake notes are all present, and are balanced well with the biscuity, creamy malt flavours leaving a soft and warming finish.

Vintage Ale 2007

A classic Vintage Ale with an aroma which incorporates spicy hop notes with rich fruit character and leads on to a very full malty, fruity, sweet palate which has a surprisingly clean finish coupled with a matching bitterness.

Vintage Ale 2008

Our 12th Vintage features two of our favourite English hop varieties, Northdown and Challenger. These, combined with floor malted Maris Otter malt, produce a rich fruit aroma laced with dark orange hop notes. A full luxurious mouthfeel is finished off with a satisfying alcohol warmth.



LIBATION FROM LIBERATION

Liberation Brewery of Jersey has produced 'Liberation 140', a 750 ml, bottle conditioned, corked and wired, dark 7% ABV beer. The production run has been limited to 2011 numbered bottles, reflecting the fact that the beer was brewed in 2011.

The beer commemorates 140 years of brewing in Jersey. You may express some surprise at that, since the Liberation Brewery name first saw the light of day in 2010. However, the brewery traces its origin back to the late lamented Ann Street Brewery, which 'died' in 2004. Subsequent to that the brewery's name was changed to Jersey Brewery and then to Liberation Brewery in 2010 when its ownership changed.

The brewery is also now in different premises from 2004. This bottle appears to represent an uninterrupted run of 140 years of brewing. Even though the event that is commemorated is rather unlikely, I can vouch for Liberation beers being excellent, having sampled Liberation 140 myself.

The beer doesn't fall easily into any category, being a highly individual style. I would describe it as a dark, strong bitter. It's also a very smart bottle (see picture).

Mike Peterson

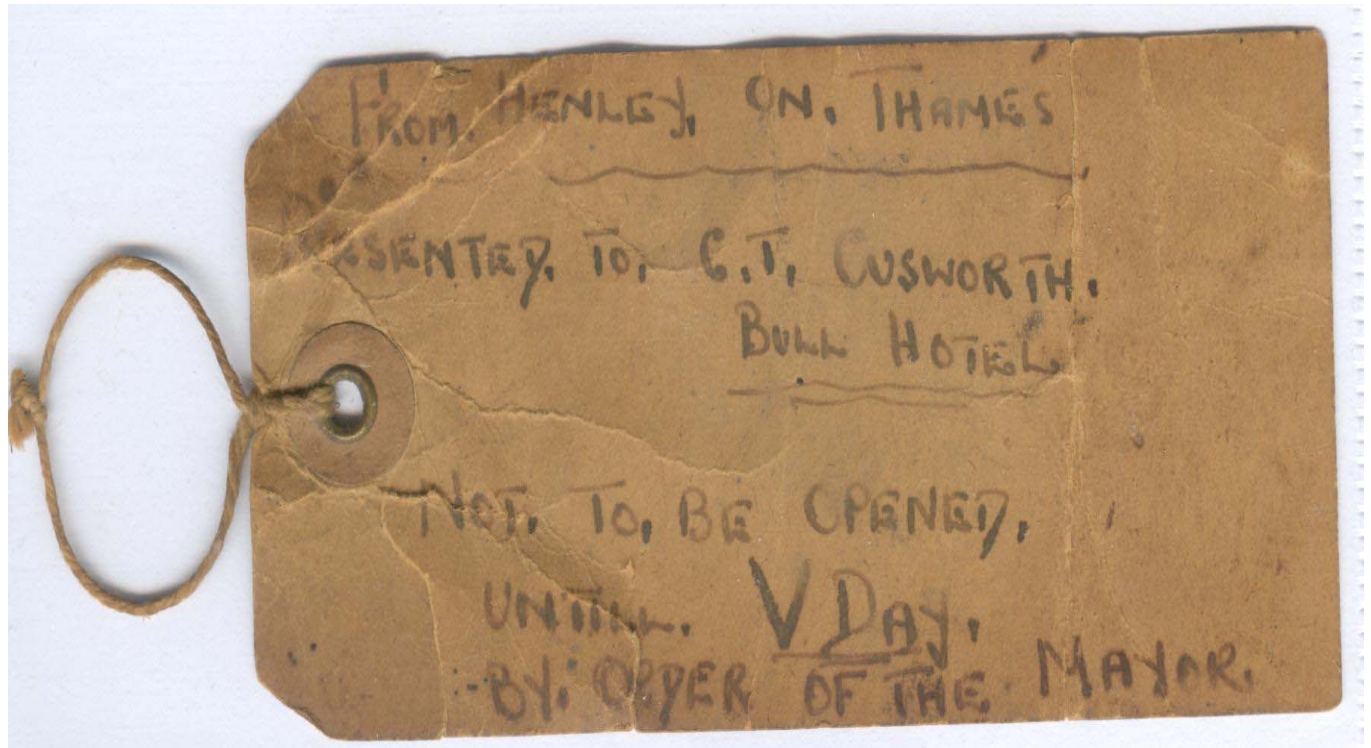
Hi Rod ,

I attach photos of a Brakspear bottle that was recently given to me. It had a tag label tied round the neck which is very worn and brittle and about to fall apart so I took it off to better preserve it. I have sent a separate scan of the tag label. The bottle is unopened and is about two-thirds full. I checked briefly on Google and C. Cusworth was at The Bull Hotel in Salisbury before and during the war years. Coincidentally a couple of weeks later, I came across a photo of the Bull Hotel from around the same period when it was owned by Hall & Woodhouse.

I can remember once seeing a photo taken in 1940 of some farm workers around a barrel of cider. On the barrel was chalked something like 'Not to be drunk until Hitler has lost'. Must have not been at its best by then. The tag on the Brakspear bottle is a great bit of social history. Although C. Cusworth survived the war and ran pubs for years afterwards, he never did truly celebrate the Allied victory. Cheers TIMOTHY EDGELL



cont...



Spotted on E-Bay :

This Vintage Guinness bottle top sold for a whopping £148.79 the Coronation cap realised £10.60 and the Ratcliffe Ale £82.00



Dave Taylor's E-Bay bargain of the month must be the boxed badger breweries special edition founders' ale containing two bottles of founder's ale. These collectable boxes of ale were only given to publicans who owned badger pubs in June 2011 only 100 were produced. Bought on E-Bay (listed in wrong section..) for just £0.06 !

Whitworths of Wath on Dearne - Coronation Ale Label £49.77 ,
Coronation Crown Cap £86.00, Kings Ale £60.00 & £147.00.
Harman's of Uxbridge Coronation Ale £77.00, McMullen & Sons
Coronation Ale one fetched £51.00 the other £99.00. Not to leave out
the regularly appearing John Smiths Coronation regularly fetching
£10.99



Madness, during April a standard Thomas Hardy Ale sold on E-Bay for £32.00 !

Market Place:

WANTED: Royal Doulton 'Charringtons' Toby Jug Variation 3.
1938/1939 about 9" high with 'Charringtons' Toby around the plinth at the bottom.
Pattern No. on underside of plinth is D8074. Help in any way would be deeply appreciated. E-Mail : jim-1_ev@tiscali.co.uk

WANTED: A book of Inns. A series of 10 small format paperbacks published in the late 1940's by The Saint Catherine Press. I may also buy other 1930's and 1940's paperback books on Inns , Breweries , Drinks and Tobacco. Eric Gadd , Terras House , Lostwithiel , Cornwall PL22 0AP Tel 01208-872802

I have approx 200 full bottled beers , all different , some commemoratives. Ideal for pub display etc I need the space .Someone please give me £50.00 the lot. Rod



Saturday 19th May 2012
The Crown Hotel, Eastbourne, East Sussex

Stalls available on the day – FREE - or can be pre booked.
To book call 07783968990/01323729525 or email bash@beermatmania.com
Stall availability is limited so please book early to avoid disappointment

The aim of the Children With Cancer Fund (C.W.C.F.) is simply to raise money and distribute it to causes that are associated with children up to the age of 18 who have had, or are suffering from a form of cancer and who live in our local area. Stalls will be packed full of all sorts of breweriana from beer mats to ash trays.



Back on E-Bay:

World's oldest documented bottle of ale,
Allsopp's Arctic Ale 1852 England sealed

Price@ **US \$155,000.00**
Approximately £98,057.82 (Didn't sell ?)





Two Tennant's bottles produced to mark the end of brewing at the Whitbread Exchange Brewery in Sheffield.

The pint embossed bottles are corked with a champagne style wired top. The labels read:

“Tennant’s Lament”

Extra Strong Ale 16% bottled February 1993 .The strongest beer ever brewed at Exchange Brewery to mark the end of brewing. Bottled conditioned and “Celebration Ale ” Head Brewers Reserve Late bottles , oak matured March 1992.

This 12% all malt brew was matured in oak sherry casks in the brewery vaults for 10 months, only 1500 bottles were hand racked prior to the brewery closure May 1993.



I have a couple of spares available at a cost of a £6.00 each, if you are interested please contact the editor.

AN INTERNET FREE FOR ALL – ABOUT A BEER BOOK

The Oxford Companion to Beer; edited by Garrett Oliver.

This 848 page book has received some very mixed reviews from several quarters, even before publication, largely with regard to its accuracy. So, as I don't own a copy myself yet (long gone are the days when publishers sent me free review copies), I am bringing together a number of comments from reviewers on the internet, with the intention of helping anyone who is considering purchasing this to make an informed decision.

The editor, Garrett Oliver, is brewmaster at Brooklyn Brewery, USA.

One expects Oxford Companions to have uniform blue covers. As the illustration shows, this is not in fact the case with this title. Its recommended price is £35.00 for the hardback, but Amazon advertises it for £21.00. I can't make out clearly whether that is for a hardback or a paperback edition, as different parts of the Amazon site say different things. But at the time of writing it is still some time before publication.

Tyson's Beer and Cheese Blog; (<http://tysonsbeerblog.blogspot.com/2011/10/oxford-companion-to-beer.html>) states;

"The book is proving hugely controversial among beer aficionados now that they have had time to go through it. There seem to be huge gaps in its accuracies. On the chemical/brewing side - which is what I examined first - it's fine. So you can find all about hops and the brewing process, for example. However, when it comes to things like historical data - Scottish beer, for example, it's very patchy. So it's a case of buyer beware. Or wait till the second edition."

While Association for British Brewery Collectables member Jeff Evans gives it a fairly neutral review on his excellent web site, (http://www.insidebeer.com/articles/20111013_1), even he doesn't lavish huge praise on what promised to be a momentous and long awaited addition to beer knowledge.

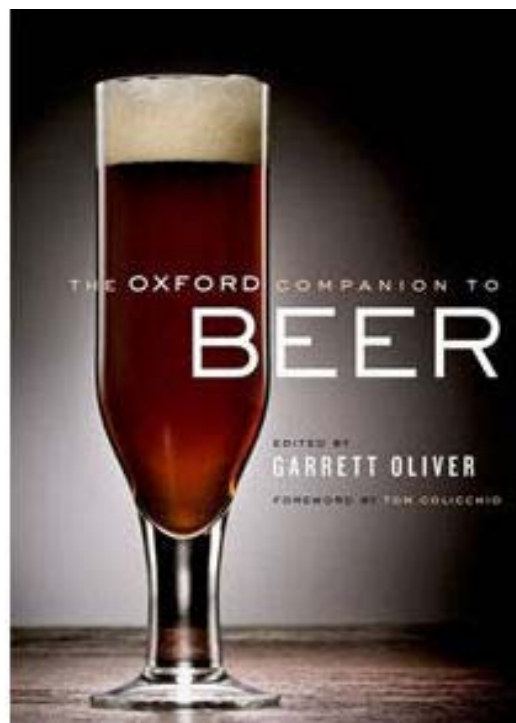
One of my favourite beer web sites is "Reluctant Scooper" (<http://www.reluctantscooper.co.uk>). This site is entertaining, instructive, amusing and a damn good read. So I make no apologies for reproducing the review from this web site in full here (with kind permission).

"There are many impossible jobs. Managing Nottingham Forest. Jeremy Clarkson's charm tutor. Cat-herding. To that list, let's add the editorship of beer guides.

Garret Oliver, brewmaster of Brooklyn Brewery, says he was minded to "politely refuse" the offer of being editor-in-chief of The Oxford Companion to Beer. With the book weighing in just shy of four pounds in weight, there's over a thousand contributions by over a hundred writers. Is that potential burden too great for even Garret's immaculately be-suited shoulders?

Time for an admission. I haven't read every word of the book. Because it's not that kind of book. It's a dip-in-and-weave-around. Always wanted to know chapter and verse on 4-vinyl guaicol? You got it. Curious about the use of sorghum in African brewing? Sorted. If I wanted to read about hops for a week - and, yes, I get weeks like that on occasion - I could happily skip between the finer points of science as presented by the likes of Charlie Bamforth and Matt Brynildson. The page on the characteristics of essential hop oils is the kind of concise eye-opener that I daydream about.

It's when you get into the realms of history that this rich tapestry of beer reveals several dropped stitches. The perpetuation of hoary old porter, stout and scotch ale myths is bad enough.



But why the contributors didn't reference books by the likes of Martyn Cornell and Ron Pattinson, both of whom have researched the styles, I can't be sure. Actually, why Cornell and Pattinson didn't get to write these style entries themselves is just as much of a mystery.

There's frustration. The cross-referencing doesn't always, er, reference: 'beer engine' links to 'swan neck' but not vice versa. Some entries seem illogical - why write about Hogarth's classic print 'Beer Street' but not show it? Copyright?

So, by turns, the book is lovable, engaging, annoying, frustrating.

It's the black labrador of the beer book world. It gets on your nerves by repeating old mistakes. It stinks on occasion and lets itself and its owner down when it shits on the vicarage lawn. But it looks at you with big brown eyes and you forgive it. Because day in, day out, it gets it right more often than it gets it wrong. It's a slightly slobbery but still engaging companion.

The simple fact is this: someone had to contribute, someone had to edit, someone had to publish a work of this scope and scale. Somebody had to start the project that others will refine, amend, append and improve. Garrett Oliver and the Oxford University Press can't please all the beery people all the time. But at least they've made the impossible job a little easier the next time around”.

Meanwhile, Martyn Cornell, on his web site, (<http://zythophile.wordpress.com/2011/10/19/the-oxford-companion-to-beer-a-dreadful-disaster>) slams it. He quotes several inaccuracies from it, correcting them. His knowledge of beer is encyclopaedic, as is evidenced by his scholarly (and accurate) books. He sums up his feelings with;

“That’s all annoying because it’s introducing new inaccuracies into the history of beer: but what is really worrying is that myths I thought I had thrust a stake through eight years ago in ‘Beer: The Story of the Pint’ are rising from the grave again, and being given life in what claims to be the acme of ‘scholarly detail and accuracy’”.

Other comments on the internet include;

“The more I read about the book the lower and lower on the “get list” it goes”. Dave.

“It seems to me that someone more qualified in writing about beer should have been the Editor-in-Chief on this one. No offense to Garrett [Oliver], but do you think the Oxford Press would have Al Pacino as the EIC on the Oxford Companion To Shakespeare, just because he had good run in the Merchant of Venice?” Craig.

... “they also let Horst Dornbusch write the article on Old Ale in the "Oxford Companion to Beer". It's not quite as bad as his one on the shilling system. There are even a couple of sentences without mistakes”. (<http://barclayperkins.blogspot.com>).

To redress the balance;

“The Oxford Companion to Beer is an unprecedented reference work that explores every aspect of beer, from its history and development throughout the world to the process by which it is created. Filled with fascinating facts and anecdotes, this is a pioneering, comprehensive, and thoroughly entertaining book.” Publisher’s comments.

“A few years ago, when we wanted to buy a friend a primer on beer, the best we could find was the Eyewitness Guide edited by the late Michael Jackson. Although the Oxford Companion is expensive, it is now the best book to buy anyone wanting to get a good overview — or at least to begin to appreciate the complexity and depth — of the world of beer.” Boak & Bailey’s Beer Blog.

Finally, the editor, Garrett Oliver, has put a response on Wikispaces, (<http://ocbeercommentary.wikispaces.com/Garrett+Oliver+on+The+Oxford+Companion+to+Beer>).

He has clearly taken offence at the comments from Martyn Cornell and others, and he responds with some vitriol, and at some length. His response is too long to quote here, but it seems to mark a considerable escalation in a war of words over this publication. You can go to the article yourself if you want chapter and verse.

I haven't read this title yet, which is why I haven't reviewed it myself. Rather I have drawn on a selection of the huge number of reviews, mostly unfavourable. Having said that, I have ordered it myself, as something to dip into when I want to. It seems that already it has had its release date put back a couple of times – or at least that's what Amazon has indicated in e-mails to me as a result of my order. But when I receive it I'll take what I read with a huge pinch of salt.

You may wonder how people can review a book without having read it. Well, publishers send out review copies before publication, and much of what you see here is a result of this.

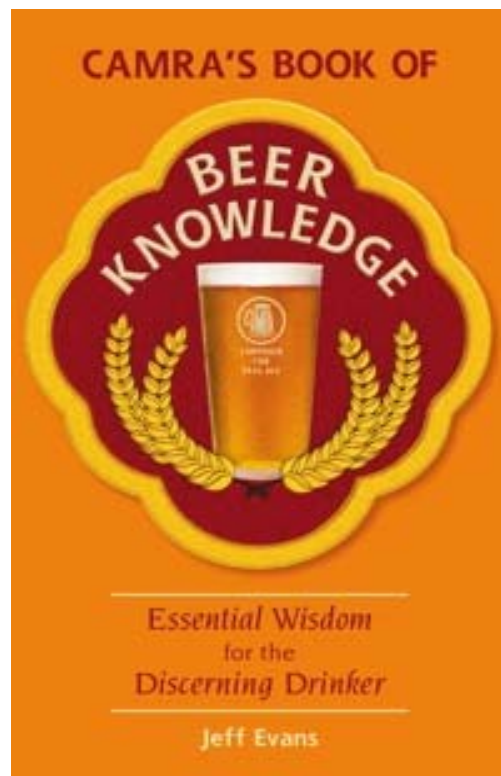
The Beercast web site sums it up nicely, (<http://thebeercast.com/2011/10/the-oxford-companion-to-beer.html>);

"... either this is just academics nit-picking, and the general facts are good enough, or once you know something's wrong, you can't trust any of the rest of it".

Mike Peterson

Have a look at the web site 'Reluctant Scooper', maintained by Simon Johnson, (<http://www.reluctantscooper.co.uk/>). It's a well written, witty, interesting, ever increasing collection of articles on beer. An eye-opener.

Mike Peterson



Editors choice: Another useful and informative read

"The Book of Beer Knowledge"

By ABBC member Jeff Evans.

This engaging miscellany of beer facts, lists, explanations and anecdotes will keep you enthralled for hours, as you trawl through the top beer-drinking nations, learn about recommended serving temperatures and see how progressive beer duty is calculated, or check out the difference between firkins and kilderkins, find out which breweries have been most successful in CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain contest, or learn how to ask for a beer in 25 different languages. Who won the Watney Cup, what's the story behind the fish and the ring and how many calories are there in your glass? The answers are all here in this top-selling book of facts, feats and fun. (CAMRA Books)

January 2012

Greene King Head brewer John Bexon proudly shows a 75-year-old ale which never went on sale – because it was brewed to celebrate the coronation of Edward VIII – the king who was never crowned.

The Suffolk brewer's Coronation Ale was due to be sold around Britain to commemorate the historic anniversary of the king's first year on the throne in 1936 - but it never saw the light of day after he abdicated to marry Wallis Simpson. It then lay undiscovered for decades until workman found it in a bricked up cellar after being called in to replace a floor at the 200-year-old brewery site in Bury St Edmunds. After cracking open a bottle John, 53, said: "This really would have been a fantastic beer in its day, it was 12 per cent when it was brewed so is quite strong and has kept really well. "The rich fruit flavour still stands out and you can see a clear ring around the top of the beer when you look at it through the glass...rather like you might see on a vintage port or wine."

Greene King's brewers made around 2,000 of the beers in preparation for the 1936 Coronation. It was discovered among 3,000 bottles of other commemorative beers which did make it to sale, including one to mark the current queen's Coronation in June 1953 and Audit Ale which was a barley wine brewed in the 1950's.

The origin of the beer became clear when a faded label was spotted on one bottle. Beer historians checked records and museum articles and confirmed the corked bottles were of Coronation Ale. John said it was impossible to put a price on the ale but said it could be of real value to beer buffs or collectors.

"We've brewed beer on the same site in Suffolk for over 200 years and there is a network of cellars under the brewery which means there could be more vintage beers just waiting to be re-discovered," added John, who has been in the brewing industry for 35 years and been at Greene King for 11 years.



Although the above article appeared on most regional TV news bulletins and in most national newspapers recently, those of you who actually read "What's Bottling" will see that the discovery was mentioned by myself on page 12 (issue142) back in May 2010 ! The discovery was made some six years ago but has recently been released to the press. For the more cynical amongst us it might be thought to be a great marketing ploy with the forthcoming release of the film "WE" recounting the Edward and Mrs Simpson story ?

E-BAY FEEDBACK

E-bay encourages buyers to leave feedback describing each deal. Here are some of the more amusing ones I have seen, showing that even E-bay has its funny side. These lines of wisdom are unexpurgated, and like every fake on E-bay, are guaranteed genuine. Even the spelling mistakes are reproduced faithfully:

If I had bid less I couldn't have bought this, Item not received so cannot leave feedback.
Got in speedy time 10 days, Ace playing card, really nice umbrella , bright and airy.
Though the trim cannot fit my car, but very good service. Recommend.
Buggy arrived smashed but OK otherwise.
Thanks lovely item I have never had it off.
51 characters left Enter your Feedback about the item.
Looks exactly like a toughbook should, beaten up!
Pleased to have added this seller to my collection., havent stopped laughing yet
Laptop never delivered, but exactly as described.
Never arrived only found out when I contacted them.
Left negative feedback and this guy blocked me.
Sorry u never received item. Please return for a refund.
Arrived this morning just Fine But I Am Scared to open it cos so Expensive.
Sent the wrong laptop which was clearly labelled as such on the box
Let's hope we can do it! Thank you very much.
Leopard received in spotless condition.
Item is a poxy resin not metal. Nevertheless I like it.
Arrive today well packaged cat wait till its blown up an working
I'm not all right with this kind of soft packaging which you use for our disc!!!
Monkey received and fed with a banana, chillin on the sofa, one happy monkey!!!
bryll....like the cream!!!
wow, he's gorgeous :-) Headset arrived broken and after fixed, would still not work.
This ebayer must be MARY POPPINS.....perfect in every way.A+

Humorous negatives

Nobody is better than this guy. From now on I'll deal with nobody.
Usual slow delivery. Rude seller. Ebay as it should be.
Didn't help when I accidently posted to wrong address.
Canceled it, and it didn't arrive.
Delivered wrong item very quickly.
REFUSES TO MUTUALLY NOT COMPLETE-THAT WAY THEYD GET FEE'S BACK BUT WONT? - - -
brilliant idea, fast del, shame it been raining since i got it.

A terrible indictment on our education system – thes people carnt spel

quolity for litle munnyy, farst derlivery, as discribed, grate ebayer
far to expnsive but god apart from that ! :) parcel post absolutly not adapt at the postage
super buyer-hihgly recommendet-thanks for super deal.greatings
THE ITEAM NEVER ARRIVE MY ADDRESE SALER DASNT LIKE TO RESOLVE THE
PROBLEM SOR
urself u should atleast pak thm proprly n use extra multi money dere. Seller shud learn to spel.
And as you well know, E-bay is mostly auctions, where items go to the highest bidder. These comments were all from auction sales.
Could have bought cheaper in shop.
Seller has increased prices since I last bought.
Happy bidding, anyway.

Mike Peterson

ASSOCIATION FOR BRITISH BREWERY
COLLECTABLES
Membership form



To join the Association for British Brewery Collectables, please complete this form, print it out and post it with a cheque for £7.00 to;

Membership Secretary
Association for British Brewery Collectables
47 Peartree Ave.
Bitterne , Southampton
SO19 7JN

CHEQUES SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO ABBC

You will receive issues of What's Bottling, the Journal and Newsletter, dating back to the first issue of this year. Your renewal will become due in December.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE MEMBERSHIP FORM BELOW

Please enrol me as a member of the Association for British Brewery Collectables.
I enclose a cheque for £7.00 made out to ABBC.

Name;

Address;

Phone number;

E-mail address;

Collecting interests;

Tick below if applicable;

- I agree to my details being stored on a computer
- I agree to my details being included in a membership list which is made available to other members

www.breweriana.org.uk

SINCE 1777

BADGER

WELCOME
TO THE
COUNTRYSIDE

• COUNTRYSIDE ALES BREWED IN DORSET •



Join our ale club at www.badgerales.com