



**BOBBE BEYER
1947-2014**

On February 6, 2014, we lost Bobbe Beyer after a determined fight with cancer. She is survived by her husband Lyn, her daughter Jenny (Mike), her granddaughter Samantha Lynn, and a niece Anne Marie Boyd Briggs. Lyn and Bobbe were married for over 45 years. They were also the proprietors of Cigar & Tabac for over 30 years. She & Lyn have been sponsors of the Greater Kansas City Pipe Club since its inception. Over the last decade they have both been very active in the Masons.

A Celebration of Life was held for Bobbe at the Old Mission Lodge in Prairie Village, Kansas, on February 22, 2014. The GKCP has made a donation to the Kansas Masons Foundation and Kansas City Hospice in her memory.



Greater Kansas City Pipe Club

News from the February 2014 Meeting

This Issue

We have another fine issue for you this month. We have the conclusion to a Emperor Leopaldo story, the fifth part of the six part series on tobacco Al Pascià, the purchase of a special Custom Bilt pipe, a great article from Arno on the various cuts of pipe tobacco, another famous pipe smoker article, the announcement of a new website for pipe enthusiasts, information on the 2014 club pipe and news about our 2014 Pipe Show.

Last Meeting

We had 35 members and one guest at the last meeting. We now have 84 paid members.

If you didn't come to this meeting you missed a dandy.

Carl Staudenmyer, president, announced that the club would be making a substantial donation to

charity in the memory of Bobbe Beyer. We had a number of members who made donations to this fund. With the \$500 from the club and the additional \$400 donated by members we were able to donate \$900 to charity.

Carl then announced that we need to fill the open board member position and proposed Dan Weddle. This nomination was approved by acclamation.

Next we needed to fill the empty vice-president's position. Brad Forster we nominated and elected by acclamation.

The Program – The H.L. Hunley

Thanks to Walt McKenzie we were able to get Col. James "Spike" Speicher (Ret.) to give a presentation on the Civil War submarine the H.L. Hunley. This vessel was never commissioned into the Confederate Navy so it is not correct to refer to it as the CSS Hunley.



Spike Speicher Addressing the Club

There is no way I can do this program justice other than to say the audience was just riveted.

The H.L. Hunley was financed by a man name Horace Lawson Hunley. Hunley, James McClintock and Baxter Watson were the main movers in getting the Hunley built.

The Hunley actually had three ill-fated crews. On August 29, 1863, five members of the first crew drowned when the submarine accidentally sank.

The submarine was raised and a new crew assigned to it. Unfortunately, on October 15, 1863, with Hunley himself in command the submarine went out again but mysteriously sank drowning all 8 men on board.

Once again the Hunley was raised and a new crew assigned to it. On

February 17, 1864, the Hunley went out on a combat mission. It succeeded in sinking the USS Housatonic, a Union warship. Sadly, the Hunley also sank and all hands were lost. The Hunley did become the first submarine to successfully sink an enemy ship.

On August 8, 2000, the Hunley was once again raised and an immense conservation project began that is still underway. The conservators were able to find and identify all eight bodies of the crew. In what had to be one of the most moving ceremonies in American History these men were buried on April 17, 2004. Col Speicher was privileged to be the pall bearer of one of the crew members.

To learn more about this amazing vessel click on the photo below.



Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, March 20, 2014, at 8PM at Cigar & Tabac.

Our program will be Dan Coomer's annual program on the upcoming baseball season.

We will need a new program director starting with the April meeting. Anyone interested in this position should see either Carl Staudenmyer or Dan Coomer.



Club Dues

Now is the time to renew your club dues if you haven't done so already. The cost is just \$25. You can pay by check, cash or PayPal. Make checks out GKCPC. If you use PayPal send the money to admin@gkcpipeclub.com.

And as long as you are on a roll and if you don't already subscribe to *Pipes & Tobaccos* magazine now is the time. Just click on the link below and sign up.



2014 GKCPC Pipe Show

Okay, this show is a go so it is time to start registering for tables and rooms. As always, you can register for table at our website (www.gkcpipeclub.com). If you want a table you must register online or personally talk to me. If you tell someone else to hold you a table it will get lost. You can count on it. Last year we sold out of tables and had to really scramble around when some folks thought they had reserved a table through a third party but weren't on the official list.

The show is at the Argosy Casino Hotel & Spa in Riverside, Missouri. The rooms are \$139 a night. Be sure to ask for the GKCPC rate. **Do not wait to order rooms at this hotel.** They have sold out every Friday and Saturday night since they opened over ten years ago. And there really isn't a close alternative either.

While registering for a table you can buy raffle tickets to the Carving Contest, or the overall Grand Raffle, sign up for the slow smoking contest, or reserve a seat at the Friday night buffet and/or the Saturday night banquet.

The Kansas City Pipe and Tobacco Show 2014

KANSAS CITY PIPE AND TOBACCO SHOW 2014



June 21 (9am-5pm) & 22 (9am-3pm)

COME ONE, COME ALL – FREE ADMISSION ENJOY THE SHOW IN OUR NEW LOCATION

The Greater Kansas City Pipe Club invites you to its annual Pipe & Tobacco expo to be held at the Elegant 5 star Argosy Hotel and Casino in Riverside, MO.

OUR PIPE SHOW FEATURES:

A smoking tent located in a enclosed courtyard
Exhibit Hall w/covered smoking Balcony overlooking MO River
Friday Night Buffet and Social Get-Together

Daughters & Ryan – Mark Ryan Q and A Friday Night

A Saturday Night Banquet With **Steve Fallon** (eBay's
PipeStud) as our Featured Speaker

Pipe Smoking Contest (Under CIPC Rules)

Pipe Care and Refurbishing Clinic

Silent Auction

Hourly Door Prize Drawings

Grand Raffle of Quality Items

5TH Annual CARVING CONTEST

SHOW FACILITIES

Argosy Casino Hotel & Spa
777 N. Argosy Parkway
Riverside, MO 64150
Room Reservations: S139
Phone : (800) 270-7711

Mention the Greater KC Pipe Club Block

Limited SMOKING rooms available

SHOW RESERVATIONS

Vendors & Attendees
Make on-line reservations
at www.gkcpipeclub.com
or

CONTACT

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2014 Pipe of the Year

You have probably heard that this year's Pipe of the Year is from Grant Batson. Grant is one of the finest young carvers working today. He has studied under both Tod Johnson and Teddy Knudsen. Grant lives and works in the Nashville, TN, area.

The bent he is making for us is modestly bent, rounded poker.



The pipe dimensions will be about:

Approx 5 1/2" length
Approx 2 1/2" height
Group 4/5 chamber
Approx 45 to 65grams
May vary slightly in all dimensions.



The cost to members for the pipe is \$280. If a non-member would like one the cost is \$305 and includes club membership. If you would like one, we can reserve it for you with a deposit of \$100 or more.

There will be only 25 of these pipes made. Please order now!

Building a Usable Online Swiss Army Knife for Pipe Enthusiasts *By James Foster*

[Ed. Note: James Foster is 4th generation pipe smoker who hails from Austin Texas and shares responsibility of leading the Austin Texas Pipe Club with 2 Others. He is a certified consumer tobacconist apprentice, and has been smoking pipes since his days in college in the late 1990s. James and his development partner Ethan Rogers are working to launch thepipetool.com]

One of the things that pipe enthusiasts who cellar their tobacco or who just sample a lot of

tobacco struggle with is keeping track of what they smoke, when they smoke, and what they think about it. Now there are a couple tools out there that have been developed, such as tobaccocellar.com which is a great site for keeping track of your cellar. What the site doesn't do is solve the rest of the story.



For me, someone who is continually sampling new tobaccos, I needed a way to quickly jot down some notes about what I smoked, what I thought about it, and how I'd rate it. Some people keep notebooks, some people use Excel spreadsheets, some people use programs like Evernote. But none of those really seemed to solve my problem.

A pipe smoker will walk up to me, and ask me – What do I think about this blend? Have I smoked it? What are my top 2-3 blends that I'm smoking that are aromatic or Virginia based or English? You get the idea. I get asked the question a lot when I'm visiting my local tobacconist, or online by new and old pipe smokers. Being that I sample a large amount of tobaccos, (I have around 40 opened tins, jars, bags right now that I'm working through,) I can't

keep track. So my problem is I need a fast way to look up a tobacco, and see A) have I smoked it and B) what did I think about it.

My next thought was, while the biggest thing is to have it accessible to me on my phone – it doesn't necessarily need to be the only place I want to access it from AND, I really dislike the phone apps that store data only on the phone. For example when you get a new phone or you lose your phone; you could possibly lose all the data you've put into the application (I'm talking to you Cigarboss). I needed an application that had a central data location that was in the cloud and the device I accessed that data from didn't matter.

Think about what Google has done. Access your email, your documents, your calendar, your contacts etc. all from one login, from any device. It's simple, and the user interface is clean and easy to use. So why can't we do that for an online pipe tool?

Ok so the seed has been planted about what I need. Now what? Does anyone else want the same thing? If I think about the amount of time and money we invest into this hobby, and the amount of artistry that goes into creating and crafting a pipe; I want to have an online tool that has taken the same amount of time to craft a usable, elegant solution.

In thinking about an online tool that really meets the needs of pipe smokers we have to think about design, form, and function. So I spent a lot of time coming up with a look and feel and then took the time to find a framework to build upon that could be platform agnostic. Next I took to the relatively new pipe enthusiast gathering place /r/pipetobacco on reddit. I was hopeful that the youthfulness of reddit would help me find a fellow pipe smoker that knew how to plug in my UI designs and ideas into a secure, stable, backend database. Within an hour of posting a sneak peek of the landing page many were excited about the project and several responded about their interest in wanting to help.



So now partner in hand, we've begun. The planted seed has sprouted into a full project, and already we've incorporated tons of ideas and features and have more on the drawing board. While we don't have an exact date of when you will be able to login to thepipetool.com you can at this time at least register to be notified as soon as we have news available.

Not only that, over the course of the next several months, my partner and I will be continuing to

ask the community for feedback and thoughts so we can incorporate those ideas into the tool making it a truly great experience.

Famous Pipe Smokers

By Joseph Cruse Johnson

General Chesty Puller



Lieutenant General Lewis Burwell "Chesty" Puller was an officer in the United States Marine Corps and is the most decorated Marine in history. Puller is the only United States Marine to receive five Navy Crosses, the United States Navy's second highest decoration after the Medal of Honor. During his career, he fought guerrillas in Haiti and Nicaragua, and participated in some of the bloodiest battles of World War II and the Korean War. Puller retired from the Marine Corps in 1955, spending the rest of his life in Virginia.

Lewis Burwell Puller, whose

nickname "Chesty" was inspired by his barrel chest as a result of his asthma, only later symbolizing the intimidating plate of medals and ribbons he bore, was born on June 26, 1898 in West Point, Virginia. He was a second cousin of United States Army General George S. Patton. His grandfather had died fighting for the Confederacy during the Civil War and his childhood heroes were Stonewall Jackson and Robert E. Lee. He grew up regularly hunting, fishing and horseback riding and would later remark that, "Those days in the woods saved my life many a time in combat."

He graduated from high school with a mediocre record before enrolling in the Virginia Military Institute in 1917. He dropped out after a year and enlisted in the Marine Corps. Because of a rapid increase in the size of the Marine Corps, Puller was commissioned as an officer. He was then sent to fight in Haiti, but the war ended before he could make it to France.

During the interwar period, Puller was appointed to the rank of Second Lieutenant in the reserves on June 16, 1919, but reduction in force following the war led to his being put on inactive status on the 26th of that month.

Puller re-enlisted in the Marine Corps the same year. As an enlisted man, he saw action in Haiti with the Gendarmerie d'Haiti, which was working under a treaty

with the United States, and participated in over forty engagements during the ensuing five years against the Caco rebels. In March 1924, he returned stateside and was again commissioned as a Second Lieutenant (service number O3158), afterward completing assignments at the Marine Barracks in Norfolk, Virginia, Basic School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and with the 10th Marine Artillery Regiment in Quantico, Virginia. He was assigned to the Marine Barracks at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in July 1926 and in San Diego, California in 1928.

In December 1928, Puller was assigned to the Nicaraguan National Guard detachment, where he earned his first Navy Cross. He returned stateside in July 1931 and completed the year-long Company Officers Course at Fort Benning, Georgia, thereafter returning to Nicaragua to earn a second Navy Cross for leading "five successive engagements against superior numbers of armed bandit forces, also known as the cacos bandits, which in turn caused a lot of problems for Chesty".

After his service in Nicaragua, Puller was assigned to the Marine detachment at the American Legation in Beijing, China commanding a unit of China Marines. He then went on to serve aboard USS Augusta, a cruiser in the Asiatic Fleet, which was

commanded by then-Captain Chester W. Nimitz. Puller returned to the States in June 1936 as an instructor at the Basic School in Philadelphia.

In May 1939, he returned to the Augusta as commander of the onboard Marine detachment, and thence back to China, disembarking in Shanghai in May 1940 to serve as the executive officer of 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines. He later served as its commanding officer.

Major Puller returned to the U.S. on August 28, 1941. After a short leave, he was given command of 1st Battalion, 7th Marines (known as 1/7) of the 1st Marine Division, stationed at New River, the new Marine amphibious base which would soon be renamed for the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, John A. Lejeune, MCB Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Early in the Pacific theater the 7th Marines formed the nucleus of the newly created 3rd Marine Brigade and arrived to defend Samoa on May 8, 1942. Later they were redeployed from the Brigade and on September 4, 1942, they left Samoa and rejoined the 1st Division at Guadalcanal on September 18, 1942.

Soon after arriving on Guadalcanal, Puller led his battalion in a fierce action along the Matanikau, in which Puller's quick thinking saved three of his companies from annihilation. In the action, three of

Puller's companies were surrounded and cut-off by a larger Japanese force. Puller ran to the shore, signaled a United States Navy destroyer, and then directed the destroyer to provide gunfire support while landing craft rescued his Marines from their precarious position. Later on Guadalcanal, Puller earned his third Navy Cross for action that was later known as the "Battle for Henderson Field", in which the 1/7 battalion was the only American unit defending the airfield against a regiment-strength Japanese force. In a firefight on the night of October 24–25, 1942, lasting about three hours, 1/7 sustained 70 casualties; the Japanese force suffered over 1,400 killed in action, and the battalion held the airfield.

While on Guadacanal Puller was shot by a sniper twice and wounded by shrapnel in three different places; he was awarded the Purple Heart.

Following this action Puller was made executive officer of the 7th Marine Regiment. While serving in this capacity at Cape Gloucester, Puller earned his fourth Navy Cross for overall performance of duty between December 26, 1943 and January 19, 1944. During this time, when the battalion commanders of 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines and, later, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines were taken out of the fight, he assumed temporary command of both units. In each instance, while under heavy

machine gun and mortar fire, he expertly reorganized the battalion and led the successful attack against heavily fortified Japanese defensive positions. He was promoted to Colonel effective 1 February 44 and by the end of the month, had been named Commander of the 1st Marine Regiment. Colonel Puller would lead the 1st Marines into the protracted battle on Peleliu, one of the bloodiest battles in Marine Corps history during September and October 1944. Also during the summer 1944, Puller's younger brother, Samuel D. Puller, the Executive Officer of the 4th Marine Regiment, was killed by a sniper on Guam.

Puller returned to the United States in November 1944, was named executive officer of the Infantry Training Regiment at Camp Lejeune and, two weeks later, Commanding Officer. After the war, he was made Director of the 8th Reserve District at New Orleans, Louisiana, and later commanded the Marine Barracks at Pearl Harbor.



Colonel Puller is seen here cutting the Marine Corps birthday cake on November 10, 1950, during a brief reprieve from battle during the Korean War.

At the outbreak of the Korean conflict, Puller was once again assigned as commander of the 1st Marine Regiment, with which he made a landing at Inchon on September 15, 1950. In November of that year, Puller earned his fifth Navy Cross for action during the Battle of Chosin Reservoir. It was during that battle when he made the famous quote, "We've been looking for the enemy for some time now. We've finally found him. We're surrounded. That simplifies things." In January, 1951, Puller was promoted to Brigadier General and was assigned duty as assistant division commander (ADC) of the 1st Marine Division. On February 24th, however, his immediate superior, Major General O. P. Smith, was hastily transferred to command IX Corps when its army commander, Major General Moore, was killed. Smith's temporary transfer left Puller in command of his beloved 1st Marine Division. Instinctively, Puller knew the army hierarchy would not allow General Smith, a Marine, to command a unit that included army troops. So, when ordered to begin the last phase of Operation Killer, Puller made the best of the opportunity by skillfully leading the 1st Marine Division and achieving its objectives. General Smith returned

from IX Corps on March 5th. Puller would serve as ADC until he completed his tour of duty and returned to the United States on May 20, 1951.

General Puller subsequently received promotions to Major General and Lieutenant General, and served in various command capacities until his retirement due to health reasons on November 1, 1955.

In 1965, Puller requested he be reinstated into the Marine Corps in order to see action in the Vietnam War, but the request was denied on the basis of his age.

General Puller was father-in-law to Colonel William H. Dabney, a VMI graduate, who, as a Captain, received the Navy Cross for his leadership as Commanding Officer of two heavily reinforced rifle companies of the Third Battalion, Twenty-Sixth Marines from 21 January to 14 April 1968. During the entire period, Colonel Dabney's force stubbornly defended Hill 881S, a regional outpost vital to the defense of the Khe Sanh Combat Base during the 77-day siege.

Lewis Burwell Puller died on October 11, 1971 in Saluda, Virginia at age 73.

Cam's Colossal Custom-Bilt By Cam Schutte

Recently I had a major pipe success. I received an eBay purchase of the largest Custom-Bilt pipe I have seen - as large as my biggest Comoy's 800 Extraordinaires!



It is one of the early pipes (1938-1946) with the Custom-Bilt stamping and the largest one I have ever seen.



The dimensions are:

Length - 8 1/2" (Bowl and shank = 4", Stem = "4 1/2". Based on the vulcanite filter fitting inside, it is original.

Bowl height - 2 3/8"
Bowl width - 1 7/8
Chamber width - 7/8"

For the comparison photos to mean anything, one has to understand that the other pipes shown are a Comoy 803 Extraordinaire, a Dunhill ODA, and a Kaywoodie Billiard that is not a tiny pipe (L=6", H= 1 3/4, W= 1 5/16", Chamber= 1 13/16.



Custom-Bilt, Comoy 803, Dunhill Oda, Kaywoodie Billiard

I began smoking a pipe in the mid-60's. One of my initial pipes was a very small Custom-Bilt that my mother had given my father in 1941. I still have that treasure and remember with fondness a number of visits with my father as I acquired additional ones.

Though I have had a few of the later CB pipes (after 1950), my experience was that the older ones had better carving and were better "smokers" so that has been the specific focus of my collection. With this latest addition to my collection, I can say my collecting

of CB pipes has spanned nearly 50 years. Without counting I probably have about 30 Custom-Bilts, each one in perfect condition.

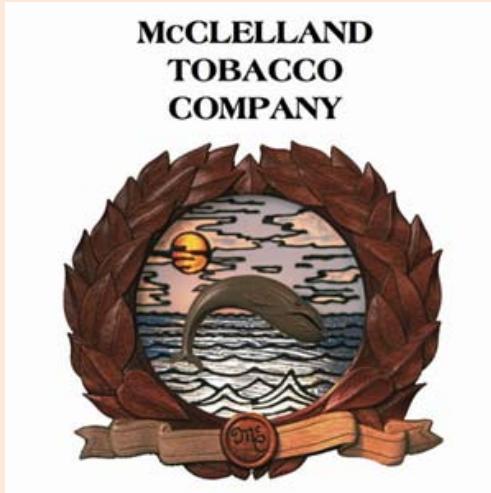


Kaywoodie Billiard, Dunhill ODA, Comoy 803, Custom-Bilt

A significant memory occurred in 1997 when I met Bill Unger. He was in the initial stages of writing his book, "The Custom-Bilt Pipe Story". We chatted numerous times about my experiences with CB's. He also provided insights that really boosted my enthusiasm for collecting them. I have a copy of the book which he autographed and included a reference to the "madness in which I had participated". It is an amazing resource that I have referred to many times. Though the book sold for \$25, I just noticed a recent eBay purchase of an autographed copy for \$103.19!

For anyone looking to add an inexpensive but good smoker to his collection, it would be worth a review of the ones on eBay. This

brand was an extremely popular American-made pipe.



McClelland Stands Alone

Until now McClelland Tobacco Company has always maintained its web presence as part of Pipe Show Online. The time had come where Mike & Mary McNeil felt that wanted a presence of their own. Working with Cam Schutte of Internet Solutions Group they are proud to announce their new website

www.mcclellandtobacco.com



This website has everything you would expect: product catalogs, smokers guides, FAQ's, etc.

At this site you can see all of McClelland's products which are an impressive array. There are 100 different tinned tobaccos.



[Web Page for Christmas Cheer 2013](#)

McClelland doesn't offer their products for direct sale to the consumer but this site is just a great resource on all the incredible tobaccos they produce.



Internet Solutions is a great company to do business with. In addition to the McClelland site they also developed the GKCPG site. Click on the link above to see how they can assist you in developing and hosting your own web site.



The Waco Kid Calls it Quits



Legendary pipe raconteur, Steve Fallon, is retiring after 17 years as the Director of the Texas Sports Hall of Fame. Citing a desire to spend more time with family he will be handing over the keys to the museum after the induction ceremony.

I think you all join with me in wishing Steve all the best in the world on his retirement.

If you are not aware Steve is going to be our guest speaker at the 2014 GKCPG Pipe Show.

Click on the photo above to see the local TV coverage of the announcement of his retirement.



The Broken Pipe

By John P. Seiler

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(Continued from Last Month)

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Two men sat smoking non-descript pipes. The stench of a cheap aromatic neer-tobacco filled the darkened room. A small illumination globe sat on the old table around which they sat.

"We will now have to be more cautious than ever." The short man said "We almost got the EIS agent tonight. We should have eliminated him at the hotel, but the explosives were in the wrong room and went off too early."

After blowing a rather skilled smoke ring, the taller man replied "Next time. They must not know that House Chesterfield is involved. If our activities in supporting the Utopian Terrorists become known, the Emperor would be forced to take direct action and stop us."

"Care and caution are the order of the day!" the short man replied.

Hundreds of parsecs, and many star systems away, at Castle Pesaro, two other men also sat smoking pipes and reviewing reports. Their pipes were as well as their tobacco was top shelf.

Emperor Leopaldo and Varten von Eckman had just completed reading Nick Reardon's report regarding the affairs on Herment IV.

"I think something very deep is taking place on Herment IV." Leo said as he puffed on his bowl of Old Earth McClelland #5100 Virginia "You should probably send a naval vessel there to support Nick if he needs it."

"I have already done that" Varten replied as he re-lit his JT Cooke blast pipe. "The Empire Space Navy Ring Drive Cruiser Magellan was dispatched when I saw the report Nick sent via Hyperwave Communications."

Leo replied "I think the words of wisdom are 'wait' and 'watch'. Let's see how events transpire and Nick proceeds. Keep a close watch on him."

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Nick had a very busy night. Due to the confusion that followed the explosion, he was moved to a new room. Cindi had left to report back to her employer. Over several full pipe of tobacco, he had composed a detailed report on the events on Herment IV, encoded it and transmitted it to Castle Pesaro via the hyperwave communicator. He knew something was happening that was deeper than the superficial results he was seeing. It was very late before he went to

bed, alone.

'They almost got me last night.' He thought while eating his very late morning breakfast. He was expecting a hyperwave communication from Castle Pesaro since he had requested more in-depth background information on each of the four PCCH principals, Thexton, and Cindi. He received the top secret report after his breakfast was finished, while he was smoking his first pipe of the day. From the reports, it became very evident that the stories of both Cindi and Robert Hamlin were accurate. As for the others, the only bad note was the suggestion from the reports, that in their youth, Mc Pain, Polbar, and Thexton had briefly been involved with the Utopian Action Group (UAG). Over the years, this group had grown from an idealistic group seeking to establish a utopian society to one that used terror tactics to achieve its goal of enforced peace and tranquility. The Utopian Terrorists were a long-term antagonist to the Emperor, tying up much of the Empire's resources. In fact, they were responsible for the death of Robert Chamberlain, one of Leopaldo's most trusted associates, advisor, and husband to his old friend Helen Chamberlain. They also were responsible for the recent military actions on the planet of New Florida.

He filled his second cup of pseudo-coffee when the door prompt

alerted him to a visitor. He arose, went to the door and found Inspector Renaut.

"I was just having coffee, would you like to join me?" Nick enquired.

"Yes I would." The inspector replied.

They sat down at the table and Nick poured the inspector a cup of coffee.

Nick began to fill the neer-briar brandy shaped pipe sitting on the table. "May I join you in a pipe? The inspector asked.

"Sure" Nick replied "here is my pouch. It contains a fine wexel-virginia tobacco blend."

The inspector took out a small neer-briar pipe from the pocket of his jacket, filled it from Nick's pseudo-leather tobacco pouch and passed it back. "I want to apologize for my attitude yesterday. I assure you that I want to fully cooperate with the Empire Authorities. You need to fully understand Herment IV politics and government. Although the top officials are appointed by the Emperor, a few families control the top positions. These families set the policies and tone of the planetary administration. Right now, the direction is non-cooperation with the Empire. There are people here that remember the days before we

became part of the Empire." He said as he blew a smoke ring towards the ceiling.

"Of course I realized that Dave Polbar's death was not a suicide." He continued "The word had reached me en-route to the scene that it would be considered a suicide. We are also always being watched. You could say that yesterday's performance was for the men that were with me and those at the scene. Our meeting today is ostensibly for me to interview you regarding last night's explosion in room 417. I will try to help you however, and whenever I can, but I have to protect myself."

Nick took the pipe tamper, tamped his pipe "Thanks for your assistance. I understand the tight rope you are walking. I do have one question; have you seen any activities of the Utopian Terrorists here on Herment IV?"

"Nothing directly attributed to them." He replied "but there are rumors that they have cells here on the planet. We did find that the characteristics residue left in room 417 by the explosives matched plastique explosives that have been known to be used by the Utopian Terrorists."

"Could you please put a tail on John Lurch and Mike Mc Pain. Oh, and also on Robert Hamlin and Robert Thexton." He asked.

"Sure" he replied.

They finished their pipes discussing the various leads in the case. Inspector Renaut had also noted that the pipe stem and bowl around Polbar's neck were from two different pipes. Nick asked if Robert Hamlin was one of the families that ruled the planet and was told that he was not. Nick informed Inspector Renaut that he was going to visit the current site of the unopened PCCH store. As Inspector Renaut was leaving, Nick's communicator rang. It was Cindi Cadego. He made plans to meet her at the PCCH store.

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An airtaxi had taken him to the address provided by Cindi. She was waiting for him at the door. The taxi departed.

"Robert gave me a key in case you want to go inside." She said.

"We will" he said "but I want to check out the area first. Robert told me that they were blocked from obtaining prime real estate and had to accept this storefront location. Do you know which one of the partners found it?"

"I believe that the store was located by both Dave and Mike. They are the ones that negotiated the lease and oversaw the renovations. I don't know if you will like the inside as it is rather modern." She replied.

Nick looked around. The store had

two large display windows facing the street. Across the street was an aircar parking lot. Between the two windows was the entrance with a cloth awning over the doorway that matched the green and gold trim cloth awnings above the windows. "Pipe Collectors' Club of Herment" was stitched in gold lettering on the face of each of the awnings. Each of the windows had a cross of crossed pipes logo with 'PCCH' in gold leaf centered on the windows. The window displays had several nice neer-briar pipes on display with tins of both neer- and pseudo-tobacco, but nothing of any special significance was in evidence.

Nick walked around the outside of the shop. Two large buildings were on each side. A small passage was on the right between the shop and the right-side building. The left-side building abutted the shop. He took the passage to the rear of the shop and found a small dock along the river. A door on the back opened on to a walkway that connected to the dock.

They returned to the front of the shop and used the key to let themselves inside. Cindi turned on the glow bulbs. The inside of the shop was unlike any smoke shop that Nick had ever seen. The walls were covered with a light reflecting combination of chromium panels, shelves, and mirrors. The display cases were chromium and glass with mirrored shelves.

"Can you cut down the light?" he asked Cindi.

She lowered the brightness of the glow bulbs. Nick still blinked his eyes "This is unlike any smoke shop I have ever seen. Usually they are done in browns or tobacco colored tints. This one is all shiny and modernistic. It comes off a little too cold for my liking"

"The interior décor of the shop was about the only point Robert disagreed with his partners, however, they outvoted him. He has not been here since the renovation work was finished." Cindi reported.

Nick observed that the display cases were filled with fine specimens of commercially available pipes. One of the prominent cases contained some current offerings by Brian Rathenberg and Mark Tinsk; two well know pipe carvers throughout the Empire. In terms of tinned tobaccos, there were tins of pseudo- and neer-tobacco, combinations, and special blends from Gorag Paese, the Sim Gorwaith tobacco company, and the full line of pipe tobacco from the Morton Frog Tobacco Co.

He walked up to the display case where approximately a dozen tobacco jars sat that was filled with bulk tobaccos. He removed the travel pipe from his pocket, opened one jar and began filling his pipe.

"McNay's Red Ribbon Flake!" he said "I haven't had any of this since I was on assignment with the Emperor."

"I don't think the store owners will mind you sampling their wares!" Cindi said with a wink.

Nick began walking around the shop. He took out a small instrument out of his pocket. It looked like a laser-type measuring tool with some odd components. The hum of a small pump could be heard when a trigger was depressed. "Measuring sniffer" he said to Cindi. He began using it to take measurements. He also periodically depressed a stud and either a red or green light would show on the display. He went over the entire shop and the rear storage area. Opening the back door, he used the device on the walkway and dock. As he re-entered the shop, he appeared to close and lock the rear door. He rejoined Cindi in the front of the store.

"What do you think, Nick? Did you find anything?" she enquired.

"I think there may be something going on here that is more than just selling pipes and tobacco, whether with or without a permit. Also, the measurements do not add up." He replied.

He returned to the jar of McNay's Red Ribbon Flake, took out his nearly empty pouch and filled it.

He left a solaris on the register. They left the shop, Cindi closing and locking the front door behind them.

-10-

Nick had Cindi fly him back to the Polbar estate. He told her that he wanted to reexamine the library. When they arrived, they were met by John Lurch and taken to the library. Once inside, Nick took out the sniffer instrument he had used at the PCCH smoke shop and began traversing the room. Again, measurements were taken and the red and green indicators were seen to glow occasionally, but ever so faintly.

Nick addressed Lurch "You told us that the library door was locked from the inside and you had to force entry.

"That is correct" he replied.

"Do you know if Dave purchased this estate or if the manor was built to his specifications?" he asked.

"Mr. Polbar purchased the estate, but the library and the rest of this wing was built to his specifications" Lurch replied.

"Do you smoke a pipe?" Nick asked.

"I do." Lurch replied "Over my career with Mr. Polbar, he has given me many nice pipes, and a

couple of Old Earth pipes."

"Where were you prior to the discovery of the body?"

"I was in the wine cellar encoding the inventory into the household computer." Lurch responded.

"Thank you John. I will contact you if I need any further information." Nick ended the interview.

Using the aircar, Nick and Cindy flew back to the Empire Hotel. They went to Nick's room. Nick put his pouch on the table and invited Cindi to join him in a pipe. She proceeded to fill her pipe with the McNay's Red Ribbon Flake. Nick fired up his pipe as he connected his computer to his hyperwave communicator. He took out the instrument used at the PCCH smoke shop and at the Polbar estate connecting it to his computer.

"Cindi, this is what we call a 'doxi' like a dachshund with its nose to the ground. The instrument measures out distances and locates shapes. It is a dimension rendering system and air sampling/analysis device. Via the computer and hyperwave interface, it will connect to the Castle Pesaro computer. It will tell me what it found in terms of trace residual materials, and the dimensional analysis will confirm several theories I have about the shop and the estate.

"I like this tobacco" Cindi told Nick "I haven't nagged you, so what do you suspect? She asked.

"I will tell you but you can't report it back, at least until the affair ends." Nick said.

"Fair enough" she replied.

"I suspect several things. The shop has a secret room or entrance into the adjoining building. The library also has a secret room or a secret entrance. Both sites indicate residuals of illegal explosives. The common factor between the two is Dave Polbar and he is dead. He built the library and designed and directed the renovations to the PCCH shop. I also suspect a connection to the Utopian Terrorists. There are many loose ends to the case. We need to await the response from Castle Pesaro with the analysis of the data." Nick explained.

They did not have long to wait. As they were about to empty out their pipes, the analysis was confirmed. Not only did the sniffer detect Plastique explosives at the PCCH smoke shop and the Polbar estate, they were a match and also matched the residue from the Empire Room 417 explosion. The dimensional analysis also confirmed Nick's suspicion about the secret entrance, rooms, or connection to the other building at the smoke shop and at the estate.

While reviewing this information,

Nick's communicator received a signal that the Magellan was in orbit around Herment IV and was at his disposal.

Inspector Renaut phoned him to say that Hamlind was at his estate and Thexton was at his office. He also said that Mc Pain and Lurch had left their estates and were headed to St. Georges. Nick instructed him to let them proceed and keep at a distance, but to break off the tail once they entered the city limits.

Nick called Lt. Calhoun on the Magellan and asked her to have a squad of space marines transported on planet and ready at his call.

"The game is afoot, Cindi, and I believe the end-game is ready to be played." He said "Time for us to go."

"Go? Where?" She asked.

"Back to the PCCH smoke shop" he said.

.

-11-

They parked the aircar several blocks away from the shop and proceeded on foot. The store appeared as vacant as when they left it earlier in the day. They snuck through the passage to behind the shop.

"But the key won't open this door." She protested.

"No problem" he replied as he turned on the knob. He pointed to the inside of the door jam "tape" he said "I never locked the door when we left earlier."

Nick turned on his every day carry (EDC) HDS-U400 pocket light set at low level illumination. The shop appeared much as it had earlier in the day. Walking from the back, he indicated to her to be quiet and approached a panel on the right side. He examined it closely and felt around the panel trim. "Got it" he whispered. He depressed a hidden button and the panel sprung open. He could see a short passage connected to the adjoining building. Voices could be heard in the entry and a slight glow observed coming from the room at the end of the passage.

They cautiously walked through the passage and could smell the aroma of lousy pipe tobacco. They also recognized the voices of John Lurch and Mike Mc Pain.

"We have to get rid of Reardon, and it has to be soon. He is getting too close!" Mc Pain said.

"Plans are in operation. It will be soon." Lurch said.

Nick took his needle blaster in hand and burst into the room "Not soon enough, gentlemen! You are under arrest!" he stated.

"For what?" Lurch asked.

"Murder for a start, trafficking with terrorists, and illegal arms sales. I think that is a good start." Nick replied.

Behind Nick, Cindi carefully took a mini-derringer blaster out of her pocket and pointed it in Nick's back. "Drop the blaster, Nick."

"You too, Cindi?" Nick groaned as she nudged him farther into the room.

The blaster hit the floor and was retrieved by Lurch.

"How did you know it was us?" Mc Pain asked.

"It wasn't too difficult" Nick replied "The explosives were all a match. I knew that you and Polbar had old connections to the Utopian Terrorists, so why not John? I thought that Thexton might have been involved, but I now see that he was just a dupe. You and Dave got the explosives and weapons for the Utopian Terrorists. This location was needed for its access to the river and hence the spaceport. All the steel and chrome in the shop was for shielding and just to lower the chance of detection. I surmised that Polbar's murder was done because he had gotten cold feet. You, John, killed him in a manner used in the past by the Utopian Terrorists to cast blame on Thexton. Too bad you lost his pipe stem and used one of yours instead. If you had used your bowl,

it would have been a dead giveaway. But not too many people know the difference between a Dunhill stem and a Vauen pipe stem. Also, you were on Rato II when the other deaths occurred. I guess Robert Thexton was innocent after all." Nick continued.

"You pretty much have it all; except for one piece of the puzzle, and that is Cindi." Mc Pain said.

"You see, Nick, Mike Mc Pain is my father. No one really knew it until he told me. DNA analysis bears it out. Robert Hamlind had nothing to do with the weapons-explosives operation, just a necessary component. Oh well, we do have a problem, what will we do with you and the Magellan in orbit. I can't let you put my father away." She said.

"Let's take him outside, stun him and throw him in the river. By the time he comes around, we will be long gone. He will not be able to communicate with the Magellan until he comes too, and if he doesn't, too bad." John Lurch retorted.

The men put out their pipes. The four of them started back down the connecting passage, Lurch followed by Cindi, Nick, and Mc Pain. They entered the shop and sealed the passage entrance. AS they headed towards the rear of the building, all hell broke loose. The sight of needle blaster and stun beams could be seen. The last thing Nick

later recalled, before passing out, was the sight of multi-colored blaster beams reflecting off the shop walls and mirrors.

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He slowly came back to the land of the living. It smelled antiseptic, like a hospital. He opened his eyes slowly. Two women were staring at him.

"Lu Jo?" he said.

"Yeah, it's me." She replied "You let yourself be bested by a woman." She laughed.

She continued "May I introduce you to Lt. Calhoun of the Magellan. If it wasn't for her initiative, you would have been a goner."

"Charmed, I'm sure" she said dressed in her combat fatigues.

The Lieutenant continued "you did not know it but your 'doxi' is also an encoding beaconing system. We were able to trace your movements. It looks like we arrived just in the nick - 'NICK' you get it, of time."

"Very good, Lieutenant. I wanted to let them dump you into the river. Ha! Trying to get into that little girl's pants, I bet! You would have deserved a good dunking! Lt. Calhoun talked me out of it so we and the marines rescued you." Lu Jo chuckled.

"Mc Pain, Lurch and Cadego are all in jail and up for trial with major charges. As accessory to murder, it will not go well for the little lady. It turns out that you were correct in that Mc Pain had connections to the Utopian Terrorists, however, John Lurch was working for House Chesterfield, one of the Emperor's old enemies." Lt. Calhoun said.

"Hamlin and Thexton have sent cards and hope a speedy recovery for you." Lu Jo said "The doctor said you will be released in a day or so, once the slight burn on you buttocks heals."

"I doubt you would have done much better, Lu Jo" Nick said. "You would have had to deal with that creepy John Lurch guy." Nick laughed.

"You will know, Lieutenant Calhoun when Nick has fully recovered when starts making 'secret agent girl' jokes. Anyways, you are alive, the villains have been caught, the Empire saved, and you will soon be back to your old self. Emperor Leopaldo will be pleased." Lu Jo announced.

"Please!" Nick said "He will be ecstatic to learn that one of his better agents got shot in the a\$\$, and that I have given his 'little secret agent girl' volume no. 3 of the series away" Nick proclaimed."

"Oh No!" she said "Time to go home! He is getting back to his old self." She chuckled.

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END NOTE

A month later, the Pipe Collector's Club Smoke Shop on Herment IV opened to rave reviews. The store decor had been toned down to look like a century Old Earth pipe shop. On-hand for the opening was Emperor Leopaldo, Varten von Eckman, Helen Chamberlain, and others in the Emperor's household staff. Nick Reardon and Lu Jo attended but remained very low key in the background. Chuck Stinyon of the Empire Pipe Collectors' Magazine attended and wrote an article for the September issue. Robert Hamlind was well pleased at the outcome of events.

Reportedly, the pipe tobacco flowed like a river. Georges Herment would have been proud.

-END-



Fred Hanna on Amazon

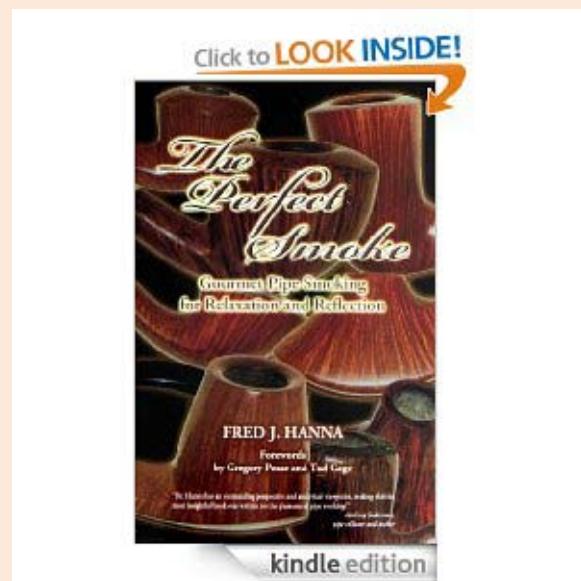
Fred Hanna's wonderful book, *The Perfect Smoke: Gourmet Pipe Smoking for Relaxation and Reflection*, is now available on Amazon in the Kindle version. This

wonderful book contains two dozen of Fred's essay's

Many knowledgeable pipe collectors and pipe enthusiasts have called this the best book on pipe smoking ever written.

In this often humorous and always thought provoking book, the pleasures of pipe smoking are clearly described in an easy-to-read, light hearted and in-depth style.

Click the link below to see the whole Amazon write up.



THE 2014 CHICAGOLAND INT'L PIPE & TOBACCIANA SHOW

Presented by the Chicagoland Pipe Collectors Club

Show

Dates: MAY 3 AND 4, 2014

Show
Times: SATURDAY, 10AM TILL 5PM
SUNDAY, 9AM TILL 5PM

Admission: \$15.00 (FOR ONE OR BOTH DAYS).

Location: THE MEGA CENTER, PHEASANT RUN RESORT, 4051 EAST MAIN STREET,
ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS 60174. FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS, CALL 630-
584-6300 OR 800-999-3319. MENTION THE SHOW FOR SPECIAL RATES.
\$155 IN THE TOWER, \$109 FOR COURTYARD.

THERE WILL BE A PIPE MAKING SEMINAR ON WEDNESDAY APRIL 30th &
THURSDAY MAY 1st (THERE IS A CHARGE FOR THIS SEMINAR). WE WILL HAVE
PIPE FOCUS GROUP SEMINARS. THERE WILL BE TOBACCIANA SEMINARS ON
FRIDAY AS WELL AS ON SATURDAY EVENING. DON'T FORGET OUR FREE FRIDAY
EVENING CPCC WELCOME DINNER.

THERE WILL BE A CPCC, FRIDAY MAY 2nd, "SWAP AND SMOKE"
(BUY/SELL/TRADE EVENT) THAT WILL START AT 9AM AND RUN UNTIL 4PM. WE
WILL ALSO HAVE A "POST- SHOW" MONDAY, MAY 5th, 8AM TO 12PM, FOR THOSE
STILL AT THE RESORT, AS A LAST CHANCE TO BUY BEFORE GOING HOME.

WE HAVE 300 + SHOW EXHIBITOR TABLES AVAILABLE FOR OUR SHOW. ONCE
THE EXHIBITOR TABLES ARE SOLD OUT, WE WILL START A WAITING LIST FOR
THOSE STILL WANTING EXHIBITOR TABLES. THE COST OF AN EXHIBIT TABLE IS
\$140.00. OUR SATURDAY EVENING CPCC DINNER WILL COST \$65.00 PER TICKET.
ATTENDEES WILL GET "TOBACCIANA" GOODY BAGS.

THERE WILL BE A VERY LARGE TENT FOR SMOKING, WITH FOOD AND DRINK
AVAILABLE, FROM 1PM WEDNESDAY OF THE SHOW WEEK TO EARLY MONDAY
MORNING, NEXT TO THE MEGA CENTER.

THE UNITED PIPE CLUBS OF AMERICA (UPCA) WILL HAVE ITS NATIONAL
SMOKING CONTEST (IN THE TENT) AT OUR SHOW, ON SUNDAY, MAY 4TH, AT 1
PM. CONTACT MIKE "DOC" GARR OR DAVID BULL OF THE UPCA FOR MORE
INFORMATION. www.unitedpipeclubs.org

THE CHICAGOLAND PIPE COLLECTORS CLUB (CPCC) AND PIPE SHOW HAVE
THEIR OWN WEB SITE AT www.chicagopipeshow.com OR CALL CRAIG COBINE AT
630-236-6202 OR E-MAIL porshcigar@aol.com FOR INFORMATION.



Pipe Smoking swept throughout Europe - Part V

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Pipe Smoking swept throughout Europe - Part V

Thirty-two kilometres, around seventeen nautical miles, separate Dover from continental Europe, and continuing further north you come into flat, low-lying, water-logged land. It was here that tobacco began to be cultivated in the early 1600s, but it was not of Dutch origin. In fact, the relative proximity of the Netherlands and various historic events had brought about a wave of English migrants to this part of Northern Europe, ever since Elizabeth I had sent money and around six thousand soldiers in order to back the rebellion of the Republic of Seven Provinces against Philip II of Spain (1585). Subsequently, under James I other migrants crossed the Channel, especially Puritans and other dissenters within the Anglican Church, who found a more congenial and tolerant religious climate in those parts. Thriving trade in the ports attracted those who sought new commercial opportunities, especially in the production of a certain commodity that King James I so detested. In the early 1600s important trading links were established between London and the Provinces, the latter beginning to challenge England's maritime commercial ventures, including those in the New World, including the import, processing, trade and export of tobacco. It may have

been thanks to some English and French students at Leiden University who were smoking tobacco as early as the 1590s that the aromatic weed was introduced to this part of the world. It is also suggested that the Spanish troupes are to be blamed, or else credited with its introduction. In any case, by the time of King James' Counterblaste to Tobacco it had already been introduced in Amsterdam and beyond, and as new waves of English migrants arrived, they spread the habit further, as well as supplying the necessary equipment to smoke tobacco.

In the early 1600s, among the English soldiers stationed in the Provinces were some who were skilled in manufacturing pipes to supplement their pay. When a treaty which initiated a truce was signed in 1609 between the Spanish and the Netherlands, these craftsmen decided to invest their money earned during the war to take up their skills again, and so did some refugees. This is why several Dutch cities saw the rise of the first pipe makers: William Boseman began his activity in Amsterdam in 1607, even before the truce; in 1617 it was William Baernelts' turn, a partisan of the Tudor dynasty seeking a new beginning. He decided to set up his manufacture in the city of Gouda, to the north-east of Rotterdam and not far from Delft, home of ceramics. If the records are

trustworthy, his business was the first to manufacture pipes in Gouda. Each pipe that came out of the kiln bore the stamp of its maker, a Tudor Rose. Legend has it that Baernelts was not his real name at all, and that he was not a common person, but a man who came from the theatre, a playwright who had pretended to be dead, fleeing wife and creditors. In other words, Shakespeare.



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By the 1630s there were as many pipe makers in Holland as there were in England. Pipes from Gouda and other places were already being exported, not only to nearby countries, but also to those further away, such as Norway, Prussia, Russia, East Indies and the New World. All thanks to a certain number of Englishmen. Meanwhile, what were the Dutch doing? Initially there was a kind of silent agreement between them, namely that the ceramists fired the pipes and the foreigners made them. The English were careful to guard their secrets, and even the apprentices were chosen among the children of their compatriots. Nevertheless, the Dutch swiftly learned the craft, and soon took over the whole cycle, thereby turning the tables on

the English. Indeed, in 1641 the city Council received the request for a guild that was limited to the locals. Nothing was done, however, as many Englishmen were married to local women from Gouda, but from then on it was established that the pipes should bear the manufacturer's mark. The guild was established as late as 1660, although people of any nationality could be members. In 1648 the Treaty of Westphalia determined the independence of the Seven Provinces, but by this time the English were already firmly settled, so much so that they considered themselves Dutch.

Thus, it could be said that by crossing the Channel the army of pipes had firmly established a foothold in Holland, to spread from there to the rest of Europe, but this would be simplifying things too much, as the context is more complex and still rather unclear in places, and paper-based records do not shed enough light on the matter. We should seek the help of archaeologists, who have been cataloguing evidence of pipe fragments unearthed in different parts of Europe, above all clay pipe fragments. The shapes, marks and other features enable the archaeologists to date the pipes and determine their provenance quite accurately. However, their greatest satisfaction is when they find the remains of an ancient pipe maker's workshop. As they gradually bring to light evidence,

and compare this with ancient documents, they succeed in shedding light on an activity that turns out to be full of surprises. Indeed, they are piecing together data that is difficult to interpret and is constantly shifting.



One surprising question that archaeologists have raised is the following: considering that the clay used for pipes (quite similar to the one used for porcelain) had been rarely used by English ceramists before the advent of pipes, that none of them had used moulds before, that the kilns for making vases and other ceramics were far less advanced than those developed subsequently by pipe makers, how come that all these factors that determined successful pipe manufacturing suddenly came together between the 16th and 17th centuries? A possible answer could be provided by an illustrated treatise on ceramic manufacture written in 1557 by an Italian, Cipriano Piccolpasso. In this

treatise he describes kilns that are akin to those that would later be used for pipes, as well as techniques to prepare clay that closely resemble those used by pipe makers many years later. Furthermore, it is said that it was an Italian, Guido di Savinio, who introduced majolica production to Antwerp in the early 16th century.



As for the pipe moulds, we have to seek them in North-Western Europe, where from the early 14th century there was a thriving production of religious terracotta figurines. During the Protestant Reformation demand declined, so that craftsmen turned to animal figures, toys ...and pipes. Craftsmen were numerous in that period. It is not certain how, but the moulds reached London, perhaps along with two ceramists from Antwerp in 1570, where the local white clay, which was easily shaped, was ideal for the new technology.

Going back to pipes, it is worth

providing some rough dates for the first pipe manufacturing establishments in some countries: Scotland, 1622, Ireland, 1630 and Bavaria, as early as 1600. In some German states pipe manufacturing began in 1620, as in Chioggia, near Venice. As for Flanders, the region of the Netherlands that maintained allegiance to Spain, but near Gouda, we can speak of the early 1600s. In Sweden, 1660, in Austria, 1690, and France, the late 1600s. Taken individually, these figures do not have much meaning, but if viewed collectively, it means that in just one hundred years pipe makers had established their craft almost all over Europe.

Tobacco arrived almost always first in a country, together with imported pipes. Subsequently, expert craftsmen would arrive from nearby countries or from afar with their equipment to establish themselves, facilitated by the local kilns where possible, and by the presence of raw material, which otherwise had to be imported. Following the successful establishment of the manufacturers, the pipes in turn spread throughout Europe, competing with those from other countries. When pipes made in Gouda achieved international renown, fair imitations of these were made in Germany and then passed off as original when sold. However, it was the soldiers who largely circulated the pipes, more than traders or manufacturers.

The Thirty Years' War broke out in Bohemia in 1618, a series of conflicts that involved almost the whole European continent. Thirty years of battles and transfer of soldiers, who then returned home, only to be sent out to battle again. Soldiers who smoked pipes if they were already acquainted with them, and brought these habits back home, or else they learnt how to smoke observing the others. According to archaeologists, there are various sites in Europe where clay pipes were made, but there are far more places where people started to smoke. The phenomena varied from country to country and from city to city, and there were areas which had not yet been reached. Moreover, it has to be considered that tobacco was not always smoked (in France it was inhaled in the form of snuff) and that some countries (especially Spain and Portugal) savoured tobacco in the form of what was later to develop into the cigar.

The spread of pipes and tobacco provoked all kinds of reactions on the part of the authorities, who often imposed harsh restrictions, albeit not effective, which were invariably followed by further fiscal measures aimed at benefiting from this inexorable craze. King James I was only the first of a long line of people to condemn the practice.



El Penelo Di Boscolo Giorgio Ceramica Artistica

Oompaul Podcast

The latest podcast from Olie Sylvester is out. This is just a tremendous program. Olie's guest is Jonathan Townsend. Click on the link below to join Olie and Jonathan and take a listen to Jonathan Townsend talk about this really interesting family business that involves everything from tricorn hats to chatelaines. Oh, and pipes!





[Ed. Note] Arno von Goor has a wonderful pipe and tobacco blog that you can reach by clicking on the link above. He has graciously agreed to let us publish his blog entries here.

Cut, Cut, Cut!
19 August 2013



Tobacco cutting machine at DTM

The cut of any tobacco is determined by the product that is going to be manufactured: pipe tobacco, cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco or snuff. Here I only will go into pipe tobacco cuts (and a bit of cigarette cuts). The ultimate goal of any tobacco manufacturer (or home blender) is to get a well mixed tobacco with a consistent uniformity in taste and "rate of burn". That means it may not burn too fast (in which case it

would probably burn hot) or too slow (which will require the smoker to relight often).



The burning qualities of any blend are determined by the following factors:

1. The type of tobacco used. Thin leaved tobacco will burn better than tobacco with heavier leaves.
2. The moisture content of the tobacco. The degree of dryness affects the speed with which it burns.
3. The type of cut or cuts used. The air circulating around the shredded leaf determinates the rate of combustion. The denser the tobacco, such as plugs, the slower it will burn.
4. The amount of casing or flavouring used. The less casing applied to tobacco, the longer it will burn.

Below I described a lot of tobacco cuts. I am sure I missed some and sorting them out was pretty damn

difficult.. Several tobacco cut descriptions are in essence the same. If you think I am wrong somewhere or you know cuts I have not described, please contact me so we all can benefit from that information. Anyway, here they are in alphabetical order:



Broad Cut: Wide ribbon-cuts which burn at an average pace and pack well are often called broad cut. The thickest cut, about twice as wide as a loose cut. Commonly used with air-cured Virginias which is then used to blend with other cuts.



Broken Flake: Flake-form tobacco that has been partially broken up.



Cake: Cakes (also called "plugs") are dense, hold their moisture well and therefore are handy to carry with you. But they require a little preparation before smoking. The smoker slices off a bit to the thickness he desires and rubs it between his hands to create a fine or coarse tobacco. Whatever his preference is. It can also be cut into thicker slices and then cross-cut twice to make a rough cube-cut. Very versatile this one. Also see "Plug".



Cavendish Cut: In older blends, [Cavendish](#) was generally referred to as tobaccos which had been treated with flavourings or even

sugar water. Sometimes they were steamed and then pressed, cut and rubbed-out. These were the original aromatics. Through the years the term has become broadly used and refers to many flavoured tobacco blends. Most of the times the Cavendish Cut was a long cut, between a fine cut and a ribbon cut, depending on the manufacturer.



Coarse Cut: Ribbon cut containing some chunkier pieces.



Coin: Thin tobacco circles which look like coins. You get those when you cut a navy plug, twist, rope or roll cake. The terms "Coin", "Medallion", "Roll Cut", "Navy Cut" and "Spun Cut" are all pretty much interchangeable as they are all sliced off round-shaped, pressed (or spun) tobacco.



Crimp Cut: This is a slightly smaller cut than the granulated one.



Cross Cut: A broad cut that is cut twice, creating small squares.



Crumble Cake: Cakes that are made from ribbon-cut tobaccos. The smoker can easily break off a chunk, crumble it between the fingers and prepare it for smoking. This form shares the moisture-holding capacity of plugs. With the added convenience of being somewhat easier to make ready. The downside is that this form tends to break into small fragments. Which can clog the airway or burn too quick. So if you load a pipe with a crumble cake, put some bigger chunks in the bottom of the bowl and the small fragments on top.



Crushed Plug: This tobacco is cut at right angles to a plug. It may be classified as a coarser and larger granulated tobacco cut.



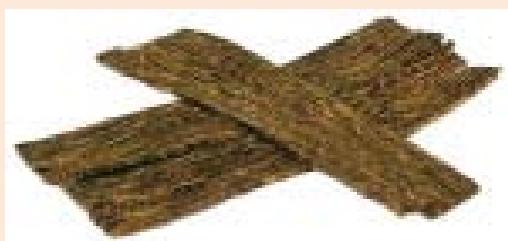
Cube Cut: Pressed tobacco which has been cut into fine or coarse cube-shaped pieces. The most common type is cube-cut Burley. The thick, chunky pieces burn slowly, so cube-cut tobaccos normally smoke quite cool.



Curly: Thin tobacco circles you get when you cut a navy plug, twist or roll cake. In my experience a curly cut tobacco is much rougher in appearance as for instance neatly stacked medallions in a tin.



Fine Cut: Usually used for (roll-your-own) cigarette tobacco. This is a variation of a long cut and shag cut. Fine cut tobacco is cut between 30 and 40 times to the inch when it is to be used in pipe tobacco. In cigarette tobacco that is 50 to 90 times to the inch.



Flake: Tobacco is placed under very high pressure with varying degrees of heat. It is then pressed into bricks and sliced into broad, flat flakes. These are typically about 1-2 inches wide and 0.1 inches thick. You fold or lightly rub the flake to put it in your pipe. There can be many different tobaccos in a flake. These tobaccos benefit from the pressing because it allows their flavours, densities and moisture levels to marry. It will also help them to have a better synergy as they age. The most

common flakes are based upon Virginia and Virginia-perique tobaccos. This is because of the density of the flake the Virginia will burn more slowly so you get a cooler smoke.



Granulated Cut: tobacco is cut from stemmed leaf in irregularly shaped, medium sized flakes. Because this cut of tobacco packs quite well with air spaces between particles, it burns slow and cool.

Lanyard: See "Rope".

Long Cut: See "Shag cut".



Loose Cut: A long, thin ribbon cut. Commonly found in many [Captain Black](#) and Lane Bulk blends.



Navy Plug: This name was given because sailors would fill a long canvas tube with tobacco (or tightly wrap rope around tobacco) and sometimes add flavourings like rum, fruits and spices. Then the tube was twisted tight, mimicking the pressing process. This technique created a dense roll of tobacco about an inch thick which could be cut into smaller pieces or coins. In essence the navy plug is the same as a roll-cake.



Navy Cut: The slices you get when you cut a navy plug. Originally these had a round shape. Later tobacco manufacturers used the term more broadly and a Navy Cut could also be a rectangular flake or slice (for example [Capstan](#)). Good examples of round Navy Cut tobaccos are [Escudo](#) and Peter Stokkeby [Luxury Bullseye Flake](#).



Medallion: See "Coin" and "Navy Cut".



Mixture: A term often seen on pipe tobacco packages. It simply is a mix of different tobacco types, cuts and flavours.

Plug: See "Cake".



Ready-rubbed: Flake tobacco that has been mechanically rubbed out so it can be readily smoked or combined with other cuts. Sometimes you see a regular ribbon cut with pieces of ready-

rubbed Virginia flake. This way the Virginia can't burn too fast and hot and the smoke is kept cool.



Ribbon Cut: More narrow than a broad cut, this has a steady burn and it packs well. It is a good cut for tobaccos that don't burn easily. Often you see Latakia as a ribbon cut because of its poor burning qualities.



Roll Cake: Similar to a Navy Plug, round in appearance.



Roll Cut: A sliced version of roll cake. See "Medallion" and "Coin".



Rope: The tobacco is spun by machine into long ropes which can be as much as 60 feet long which are then cut in larger pieces for sale. There are a few of these ropes which are cut into coins before they are finally packed.



Rough Cut: Tobaccos which are cut into larger flat pieces, a heavier version of the granulated cut. This cut burns slowly and can be used to keep hotter tobaccos from burning too fast.



Shag Cut: Tobacco which is finely cut/shredded into long threads. It is thinner and longer than a ribbon cut. It may range from a 19th of an inch to a 16th in width and in length from a half inch to an inch. Virginia tobaccos lend themselves to this cut because of their large leaf size. A shag cut can easily pack too tightly and burns very well. Just like a fine cut this cut is common for roll-your-own cigarette tobaccos as well.



Slices: In essence the same as flakes. The only noticeable difference is the thickness; slices are thicker than flakes. One of the

most well-known tobaccos of this type is (of course) Troost Slices.

Spun Cut: See "Curly" "Coin" and "Medallion".

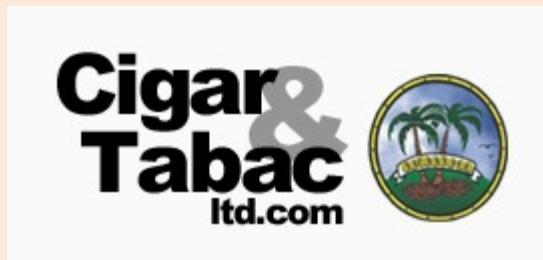


Square Cut: Flakes which are cut in squares, the picture is not so good but the only one I could find. A good example of a square cut is Mick McQuaid [Square Cut](#).



Twist: Similar to rope. Leaves are layered and then twisted tightly to mature the tobacco. That is why many ropes and twists tend to be rather strong in flavour and nicotine content. It can be sliced into coins for pipe smoking or cut in thicker chunks for chewing.

If I have forgotten any tobacco cuts or if you have any comments, please let me know!



Dan Coomer, Nate Newberry, & Bill Miller



Bevy of members listening to the Program



Vlad Jirinec & Auggie Augspurger



Jay Roberts working on minutes of the meeting



Colonel James "Spike" Speicher



Group Shot



Jay Roberts, Dan Coomer, Nate Newberry, Bill Miller, and Ken Davis

Hot Links:

Below are some links to various web sites that I think you might be interested in. Some are informational, some are vendors/carvers, and some are friends of the GKCPA. By no means is this list inclusive.



Bob Oswald's Leather Site

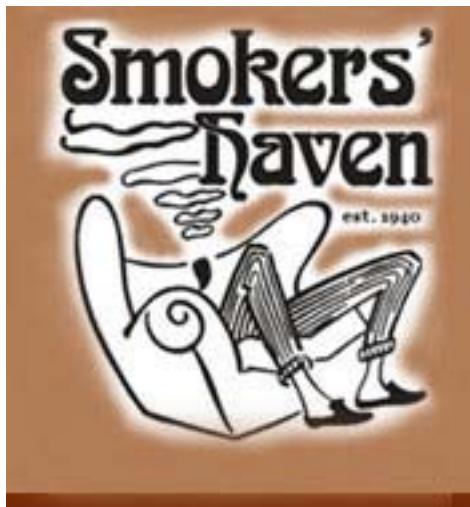


Anthony Harris' Pipe Site



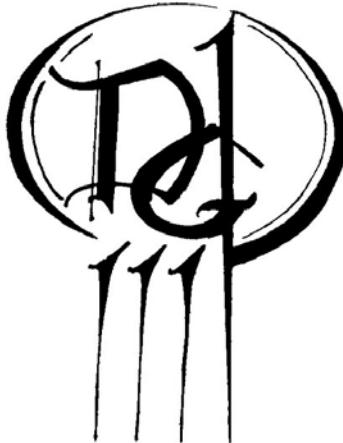
Mike Sull's Website





Ebay's
TREASUREPIPES

Perry White



Dead Guy Pipes