

CrossTalk

July CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter 2006

Summer Relief

At about this time last year we looked at the heat-relieving properties of Ice-cream. This year we'll look at these same properties in a more, shall we say, "adult" context; Beer!

Well, everybody knows that beer has a long history. In fact, it's the world's oldest and most popular alcoholic beverage. Today, there are more than 133 billion liters consumed every year world wide! Some say our distant **nomadic** ancestors discovered the **delights** of beer about 10,000 to 15,000 years ago. Although this can not be **verified**, we can show that beer production dates back, at least, some 6,000 years.

The earliest written records of beer production are **attributed** to the Sumerians. It is said that they discovered it by chance, although nobody knows exactly how the story goes: Perhaps a piece of bread, or some grain, became wet and was **inadvertently** left to **ferment**. Along came a hungry beggar, saw a free meal, ate the bread, got "high" and, being smart, patented the recipe, made a fortune and lived (very) happily ever after! Who knows?

But, about 2,000 years later, or about 4,000 years ago, records tell us that beer consumption had made considerable progress in Sumerian society. A "Hymn" devoted to "Ninkasi", the Goddess of brewing, comes from that era. This "Hymn" also contains a *recipe* for making beer!

Beer was passed on from the Sumerians to the Babylonians, whose records referring to beer date from at least the 2nd century BC. These records tell us that the Babylonians actually brewed 20 different varieties of beer. From Babylonia the brewing tradition was passed to the Egyptians and then on to the Greeks up into Roman times (before wine became the beverage of choice). In all of these **ancient** cultures, beer was, more often than not, **bartered** rather than sold. In fact, in many ancient cultures (as noted in Babylonians times) up until relatively recent times, beer was considered sacred to the Gods because of its supernatural "mood-altering" properties.

However, in those ancient times, beer was cloudy and unfiltered and consumption had to be aided by "drinking straws" to help the drinker avoid brewing **residue** – which, from all accounts, was very bitter to the taste. So, it would seem, the common drinking straw has a long history too, thanks to beer!



Whether or not you believe beer is "heaven sent", and **irrespective** of whether or not you prefer to drink your beer with a straw, pause for a moment or two before taking your first sip to reflect on the long and colourful history that comes with that cool, refreshing brew you are now holding in your hand!

Glossary

(These words are in **colour** in the story)

nomadic 遊動民の	delight 楽しさを与える力	verified 立証される
attributed ~のものであるとされる	inadvertently 偶然に	ferment 発酵を起こす
ancient 古代の	bartered 物々交換された	residue 澱(おり)
		irrespective

A Word From Us



Joshua Says: Again, we have to say a, partial, “good-bye” to one of our teachers. Marita, our German teacher must return to Germany, but just like Natacha last month, she will continue teaching our German students through the internet. Her husband, Matius, who will remain in Matsuyama, will also help out with our German lessons. Good luck in Germany Marita, and we look forward to your internet German lessons, too!

Junko Says: I’ve noticed something very pleasing recently. Some of our younger students have taken to reading books from our new library while waiting for their lessons to start. Watching them makes me feel very happy, especially as they seem to be getting into the books with a very “serious” look of concentration on their faces. It’s great to see this happening. They are a good example for *all* our students.



Iain Says: Beer really is an acquired taste. When I was young I could never understand why adults would want to drink the bitter stuff. Over the years, however I would try a little at parties with friends. And, when I came to Japan eight years ago I was happily surprised to find that the beer was quite good! These days I’m trying to lose a little weight so I have given up beer for a little while. I picked a bad time to stop. When it gets hot out in the summer time, I just love to cool down with a nice cold beer. Now there are about six cans of ice-cold Kirin in my refrigerator calling to me, but I have to resist for a few more months.

Greg Says: What is your dream? I am surprised to hear so many people who tell me they don’t know or they don’t have one. To me a dream is something you strive to obtain; something you set your sights on and take step after step until you achieve it....Is your dream to travel to an exotic country? Is your dream to create an international business? Is your dream to be the best person you can be? Is it to create something for future generations? What is your dream?



Adrienne Says: Last Saturday the ladies in my 10:00am Mitsukoshi class gave me very sensible advice on how to solve my sock crisis. They seemed to think that my children’s socks are disappearing due to my own incompetence. They recommend that I put all the socks into a net (after scrubbing them by hand!) and *then* put them into the washing machine. After that, I should dry them in pairs outside. I will now try this very sensible approach to my sock crisis. The ladies also had very sensible ideas on how to solve the North Korean missile crisis. I will tell you about their ideas in next month’s Newsletter.

Marita Says: “Life is what happens while you are busy making other plans.” This quote by John Lennon proves to be true again. Germany is calling and, sadly, I must leave beautiful Matsuyama. But maybe we will meet again in the “virtual world” of the internet, where we can still communicate and learn from each other. Even John Lennon would have appreciated this, as Yoko quotes: “New technology is something he always embraced, and this is something he would have loved.” So, even though I will miss face-to-face communication with my students, I hope to keep in touch this way... With love...



Dean Says: Hello everyone! I am very happy to join the staff here at Crossroads. I am an Australian and have been living here in Matsuyama for the past 4 years. Prior to coming to Japan, I lived in Thailand for 3 years and India and Nepal for 3 years. I have been practicing Yoga and KiKo for around twenty years. I also enjoy cooking. I have started teaching English-Yoga and English-Cooking here at Crossroads. I am also a registered Nurse and I have studied and worked as a Traditional Oriental Medicine Doctor. I’m looking forward to meeting you.

William Says: The heat is on! It's time for beach music, ocean tunes, and the sound of the sun. I have dreams of my home in Newfoundland, Canada - swimming at the beach with friends, and playing music all night long.



Yuka Says: I saw an interesting TV program the other day. It was about a “Language Club” in India. A local physician dreamed up laughter therapy. He got his patients to do laughing exercises for 10 or 15 minutes a day and it worked like a charm. It is said that a big belly-laugh is good for mental health, the immune system and blood pressure. I thought the idea was great. With pressure at work and a constant stream of bad news from the media, I think laughter is the best medicine.

A Word From You



Nana Says: I have been a student here for a year and a half. I work at Sympa near Kinokuniya. Come and visit me sometime! I like to read books. I especially like mystery novels. One of my favorite authors is Keigo Higashino. He is a brilliant story teller. His books are exquisitely composed. If I were to recommend one book, it would be, "Himitsu", or "Secret" in English. I hope you can enjoy reading as much as I do.

Megumi Says: Hello, everyone! I like to draw. I started when I was four years old and I have never stopped since. My favorite style of art is illustration and I like to paint with colored ink. Here is one of my pictures. It's drawn with pencils. The model is an actress from the Takarazuka Revue. One of my favorite artists is Syoumei You and this is a copy of one of his pictures. Do you like it?



Notice Board



Study "overseas" here at Crossroads!

Marita will begin German lessons from her home in Germany very soon...



...and, Natacha is already giving French lessons from Canada to her students here at Crossroads!

....Through the NET....!

For those interested, get the details from Junko in the office.

Along with great Food, Fun and Sun, we'll have performances and presentations too!

REMINDER

Don't forget
Our Roof-top B-B-Q
Party on Sunday, August
27th at 5:00pm -
Bring your favourite
food and drinks, and
invite your friends to
join in the
fun with us!

Net News

NET LESSONS:

Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS to study? Try our *lessons on the internet*! -- It's CROSSROADS in your home or office! You get CROSSROADS' great teachers, teaching programs, even classmates, *all on-line*! Call for details.

NET SITE OF THE MONTH:

Here's a pretty comprehensive history of beer...
http://www.eat-online.net/english/habits/history_of_beer_main.htm

NET NOTEBOOK: Don't forget to take a look at the Internet activity notebook in our open-house. You'll find games, news and English learning sites.

Courses you can take at CROSSROADS

GENERAL COURSES:

2 x's 60mins / week
1 x's 90mins / week
Private 1 x / week
Semi-Private 1 x /week

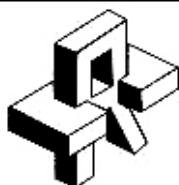
MOTHER & CHILD, group or private
KIDS, group or private

COSMOPOLITAN COURSES:

"Singing in English" with William
Yoga with Dean
Guitar with William
"Cooking in English" with Dean
"Magic in English" with Iain
Piano with Adrienne
Drumming with William

FRENCH with Natacha
SPANISH with Patricio
RUSSIAN with Natasha
GERMAN with Marita & Matthias
CHINESE with Noriko
KOREAN with Kim

NETLESSONS:
group or private



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