

都市生活とビール：家庭とノスタルジア

メタデータ	言語: ja 出版者: 静岡大学人文社会科学部 公開日: 2022-03-07 キーワード (Ja): キーワード (En): 作成者: 鈴木, 実佳 メールアドレス: 所属:
URL	https://doi.org/10.14945/00028651

Urban Life and Home Brewing

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This paper is based on a presentation at a seminar called ‘Urban Life and Beer’ held on 6 November 2021.

In Britain, brewing beer at home without license was prohibited only between 1880 and 1963. Currently they can brew beer for domestic consumption without any quantity limitations. To make it easier, a great variety of home brewing kits are available via online stores as well as on the supermarket shelves.

When talking about beer, although it has a very long history going back with human civilization, Britain and Germany feature prominently in its modern history. In the eighteenth century, various beverages were available and some were thought to be good to working people and others not. In William Hogarth’s famous prints, *Beer Street* and *Gin Lane*, a striking contrast between beer and gin was provided. In the first half of the eighteenth century, cheap and intoxicating gin was sold widely and it was regarded as one of the main causes of corruption in people’s health and social vices. The central figure in *Gin Lane* is a mother who, drunk with gin, is oblivious of her child, falling from her arms. In *Beer Street*, beer, ‘happy Produce of our Isle’, is a friend of ‘Labour and Art’ and ‘Liberty and Love’. The beverage also was increasingly associated with national attributes of Britain. Especially at the end of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth, caricatures focused on the contrasts between beer-bellied John Bull and skinny Frenchmen.

Popular recipe books are a window to know people’s life styles. The 1727 *Compleat Housewife* was popular enough to have the eighteenth edition by 1773. There, we have, among ‘All Sorts of Made Wines’, a recipe to make ‘Strong Beer’. This brews one barrel of ‘good household beer’. In the ever popular *Beeton* (1861), everyday vegetables are part of brewing procedures; carrots can be a good substitute for malt and onions produce by distillation an alcoholic liquor. There is a recipe for ginger beer, which is ‘not to be forgotten at picnic’.

The frontispiece to *Mrs Beeton’s Book of Household Management* shows ‘The Free, Fair Homes of England’ with a dog, cows, ducks, hens and people who have

gathered together to enjoy the harvest. At the centre of the picture, a woman is holding a tray to provide her homebrewed beer to the pot-bellied contented folks. This is striking because in the book any recipe to brew beer at home is not included though there are as many as 2751 items in the book. I argue this is because home brewing in London was in the times of Beeton already an object of nostalgies. The free, fair homes of England with home brewed beer was an ideal that urban lives had lost because of the industrialization and urbanization. Civilized urban mistresses of the households paid attention to qualities of food and ingredients. Although they no longer brew beer at home, freshly brewed beer and yeast were available from nearby brewery and stores in London.