An Instructional Note to the Pipe Smoker and Pipe Collector: Recommended Reading
Ben Rapaport (Fall 2007)

In May 1987, I had prepared a handout for a seminar on the history of tobacco literature presented at Barry Levin's pipe show in Westborough, Massachusetts. Since then, many other works have appeared in print, and it is time to update the list for those into book collecting. I feel qualified to assemble this list, because my own library is comprised of more than 3,000 volumes, but if I omitted any that should have rightfully deserved proper recognition, I will apologize for those absent titles and add them. The list is not proprietary, so reproduce it at will.

On the next several pages I list only English-language books organized by rather arbitrary topical headings. Using an arbitrary set of topical headings is not a bibliographic crime, but it creates a false sense about these domains; most books in this field cover a multitude of related subjects. Not including foreign titles denies the uninitiated foreign-language-fluent reader the opportunity to know about some very lush and colorful books published in foreign languages. The list also excludes books on snuff, cigars, and cigarettes; since some pipe smokers also smoke cigars, the right side of my brain has been telling me to add cigar books to this list, and the left side of my brain has been saying: "create a separate list for cigar smokers." I have listened to both sides of my brain, and I have prepared a separate list for the bookish cigar smoker. On this particular list, you will find many rare and out-of-print titles cited. If the book is a good reference, in my opinion it belongs on the list, even if you cannot easily reach out and find it at your used bookstore.

Preceding this list are some of my observations, many formulated during the last 50 years as a passionate bibliophile, and others formulated during the past 25 years merchandising these books. If the following snippets and the list serve you well in your search for a new or an old book, this instructional note will have served its purpose. I share these thoughts with you for whatever they are worth.

☻ The literature of tobacco and smoking is an arcane field because, today, few think of tobacco as a field of research. However, would you believe that, next to religion, it’s an area covered by many printed words? In 1989, when I published The Global Guide to Tobacco Literature, I had counted some 5,800 titles in the predominant languages—English, French, German, Italian, and Dutch. By mid-1994, another 150 or so books had appeared in print! So, the inventory continues to expand, and it covers a wealth of interrelated and, sometimes disparate, areas such as: history of smoking customs and tobacco technology; agriculture and farming; prose and poetry; and occasional fiction; specialty books on pipe crafting; snuff and its accouterments; tobacco boxes, jars, and pocket tins; cigar boxes, labels, cigar bands and cigar accouterments; tobacco art; cigarette packs; matchboxes, matchbox labels and match books; cigar-store figures; industry and company histories; museum exhibition catalogs; special auction house catalogs... and the list goes on.

☻ The range of material is as broad as the variegated interests of most smokers who choose distinctive pipes and tobaccos to suit their own particular tastes. Plenty of books are in print from which to choose something suited to individual tastes. Many of the titles appearing herein have been published privately, some as a limited edition, others as vanity press or facsimile reprints. Some were short-runs and the supply was exhausted within six months to one year after the ink was dry. That may be why your local tobacco shop and bookstore never stocked them.

☻ Where do you get some of these hard-to-find titles? You know your tobacconist better than I do, so you also know whether he sells tobacco books. Some do, some do not, but most have as difficult a time as the consumer determining what’s in print. Why? There's no industry clearinghouse that keeps the retailer apprised; few publishing houses know how to penetrate the tobacco industry; and let's face it, books on tobacco just aren't that profitable, and today’s tobacconist is trying to stay alive with higher-profit-margin product lines. So, you’ve got to find other avenues such as researching Books in Print, querying out-of-print and antiquarian book dealers, going to book fairs and pipe shows, and getting on the good side of those who have a personal library of tobacco books.

☻ One avenue to build a referential library is through my newsletter, “Antiquarian Tobacciana.” It’s not a totally free service, but it comes close to being free. The newsletter is designed to keep its readership abreast of “baccy goings-on, including new releases from around the globe. I do not stock every title, because I am very selective. I am not interested in selling books that promote the anti-smoking theme, and books on harvesting tobacco, after all, are not
very invigorating. My criteria are that the book be illustrated, well written, and reasonably priced, and that the central theme be popular and interesting. But, I am not averse to providing you the bibliographic details about any book in print that I do not stock so that you can order it directly from the publisher/distributor.

Comments on books in general? The very best of poetry and prose was published in the late 19th Century–early 20th Century, and the very best illustrated books are those published in the late 20th Century. As to the caliber of books — binding, quality of paper and ink, photography, number of color illustrations as a relative measure of merit to price — I would have to say that, on average, foreign books win for their character and their 'je ne sais quoi.' Because no foreign titles appear in this list, write to me about your interests and I'll offer you some suggestions.

**Cultural and Social History of Tobacco Smoking (Best reads)**


Fairholt, F.W. Tobacco: Its History and Associations (London, 1859 and 1876; Detroit, 1968)


Heward, E.V. St. Nicotine of the Peace Pipe (London, 1909)


Penn, W.A. The Soverane Herbe. A History of Tobacco (London, 1901; New York, 1902)


**Cultural and Social History of Tobacco Smoking (Next-best reads)**

Bain, A.W. Tobacco: Its History and Associations, Use and Abuse, Including an Account of the Plant, and Its Modes of Use in All Ages and Countries; Shewing it to be the Solace of the King and the Beggar (1836)

Barth, I. The Smoking Life (Columbus, 1997)

Brooks, J.E. The Mighty Leaf: Tobacco Through the Centuries (Boston, 1952; London, 1953)


Hamilton, A.E. This Smoking World (New York, 1927; London, 1928)

Heimann, R.K. Tobacco and Americans (New York, 1960)

Kuntz, K.M. Smoke: Cigars, Cigarettes, Pipes and Other Combustibles (New York, 1997)

Oropeza, R. Between Puffs. Two Thousand Years of Tobacco Use (Orlando, 2005)

Robert, J.C. The Story of Tobacco in America (New York, 1949; Chapel Hill, 1967)

Silberberg, L. Tobacco: Its Use and Abuse (London, 1893)

Spinden, H.J. Tobacco is American. The Story of Tobacco Before the Coming of the White Man (New York, 1950)

"How To"

Arias, J. R. The Pleasurable Art of Pipe Smoking (n.p., 1968)

BAT Co., Ltd. What Every Pipe Smoker Should Know (London, 1968)


Benson and Hedges Live in Peace With Your Pipe (London, 1973)

Brown, J.L. The Art of Pipe Smoking Pleasure; A Pipe Smoker's Handbook (New York, 1946)

Caldwell, R. On the Pleasures and Enjoyment of Pipe Smoking (Venice, 1999)

Crole, R. Pipe. The Art and Lore of a Great Tradition (Rocklin, 1999)
Faught, M.C.  How to Scratch a Match and Other Secrets of Successful Pipe Smoking (New York, 1947)
Gallant, P.A.  Pipe Smoking: The Pleasant Alternative to Cigarettes (Chicago, 1978)
Herment, G.  The Pipe Book; A Serious yet Diverting Treatise on the History of the Pipe and All Its Appurtenances (London and New York, 1954)
Kolpin, E.  The Story of Your Briar Pipe. Prepared from over 40 Years Experience and Study on Pipe and Tobacco Combustion (Santa Monica, 1969)
Neelin, J.E.  An Introduction to Pipe Smoking (Ontario, 1980)
Ogden’s of Liverpool  The Pipeman’s Companion. From Ogden’s of Liverpool (Bristol, 2000)
Olrik, P.C.  Pipesmoker's ABC (Birkeröd, 1973)
Parker, H.  My Pipe, My Tobacco and I: A Narrative Dedicated to the "Pipe Smoker Who Cares" (Fresno, 1972)
Philip Morris, Inc.  Tidbits, Tips and Trivia on The Art of Pipesmanship (n.d.)
Puffington, H.B.  How to Smoke a Pipe (New York, 1958)
Spaniola, J.W.  Smoke A Pipe (Flint, Michigan, n.d.)
Weber, R.J.  Everyman’s Guide to Pipe-Smoking and Tobaccos (Victoria, 1983)
Yunker, A.D.  Toward a Theology of Pipesmoking (St. Louis, 1970)

**Art of Briar Pipe-making**

Gregorio, J.M.  How to Make Smoking Pipes (New York, 1971)
PIMO  Guide to Pipe Crafting at Home (Chicago, 1976; Manchester Center, 1996)

**General Appreciation of Contemporary Pipes**

Cole, J.P.  Briar Pipe Shapes and Styles (Surrey, 1985)
Douwe-Egberts  Concise Encyclopaedia for the Pipe Smoker (Groningen, 1988)
Ehwa, C.  The Book of Pipes and Tobacco (New York, 1974)
Hacker, R.C.  The Christmas Pipe (Beverly Hills, 1986)
Hacker, R.C.  The Ultimate Pipe Book (Beverly Hills, 1984; London, 1985, and later editions/printings)
Hacker, R.C.  Rare Smoke: The Ultimate Guide to Pipe Collecting (Vol. I) (Beverly Hills, 1999)
Liebaert, A.  The Illustrated History of the Pipe (Suffolk, 1994)
& A. Maya Lopes, J.  Pipes: Artisans and Trademarks (Lisbon, 2005)


Newcombe, R.  In Search of Pipe Dreams (Sumner Books, Los Angeles, 2003)


Reemtsma GmbH  Tabago: A Picture Book of Tobacco and the Pleasures of Smoking (Munich, 1960)

Schmidt, J.  Pipe-Smoking Contest. What a Pipe-Smoker Should Know (Poznan, 2004)


Turmac Tabakmaat-Schappij, N.V.  Tobacco, Pipes, and the Pleasures of Smoking (Amsterdam, 1960)

Unger, W.E.  As Individual as a Thumbprint: The Custom-Bilt Pipe Story (Columbus, 2000)


Worth, K. A.  Back From the Ashes: Uncovering The Lost History of G.L. Hunt and the Falcon Pipe (Studio City, 2007)


History and Provenance of Antique and Vintage Pipes

Armero, C.  Antique Pipes (A Journey Around a World) (Madrid, 1989)


Barton, J.T.  A Portfolio of William Bragge and His Pipes of All Peoples (Herts., 1991)

Bewlay’s Pipes of All Peoples (London, n.d.)


& Collins, G.N.

Fisher, R.L.  The Odyssey of Tobacco (Litchfield, 1939)

Fresco-Corbu, R.  European Pipes (Guildford, Surrey, 1982)

Gehlbach, D.  Ohio’s Prehistoric Pipes (1997)

Goes, B.  The Intriguing Design of Tobacco Pipes (Leiden, 1993)

Hungarian National Museum  The History of the Hungarian Pipemaker’s Craft. Hungarian History Through the Pipemaker’s Art (Budapest, 2000)


Larus & Brother Co.  
Levardy, F.  
Libert, L.  
Museum of Tobacco Art and History.  
Orhant, A.  
Pritchett, J.R.  
Rafferty, S. & Mann, R.  
Rapaport, B.  
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Schmied-Duperrex, A. e. Boccazzi-Varotto, A.  
Schrier, G.B.  
Scott, A. & C.  
Silverman, H.  
Vandalis, G.E.  
Yates, S.  

Tobacco:  General Survey for the Smoker

Association of Ind. Tobaccoconists
Blair, L.C.M.  
Brennan, W.A.  
Players  
Sherman, M.M.  
Tanner, A.E.  
Werner, C.A.  
Winans, R.F.  
Wolf, F.A.  

Prose and Poetry

Adams, C.S.  
Allen & Ginter  
Anon.  
Anon.  
Anon (Ferguson, R.)  
Bain, J.  
Braley, B.  
Browne, I.H.  
Chaffee, F.  

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Edwards, G.W. Thus Think and Smoke. Tobacco. A Rhyme (XVII Century) (New York, 1891)
Hamilton, W. An Odd Volume for Smokers; A Lyttel Parcell of Poems and Parodyes in Prayse of Tobacco (London, 1889)
Harrison, J.L. With Pipe and Book. A Collection of College Verse (Providence, 1897)
Herford, O., and S. Collins The Smoker's Year Book (New York, 1908)

Hutchison, W.G. Lyra Nicotiana: Poems and Verses Concerning Tobacco (London, 1898)
Jenkinson, A. M. Whi fflets (Pittsburg, 1897; 1900)
King, W.H. My Smoking-Room Companions (New York, 1899)
Knight, J. A Smoker's Reveries (Boston, 1909)
Lloyd, H. The Smoking Concert Reciter (London, 1890)
Miles, A.H. The "Smoker" Reciter (London, 1902)
Miltoun, F. The "Sov'rone Herb" and the Smoker's Year. A Calendar for MDCCCCV, With Certain Excerpts from the Wits and Historians of All Ages; Concerning the Virtues of the Necessitous Weed (Boston, 1904)
O'Neil, H. Invocation to My Pipe (London, 1871)
Ousley, C. Rings o' Smoke (New York, London, Montreal, 1902)
J.B. Pace Tobacco Co. A Bit of Advice (Richmond, n.d.)
Palmer, C.W. The Weed: A Poem (London, 1880)
Partington, W. Smoke Rings and Roundelays; Blending from Prose and Verse (London, 1924; New York, 1925)
Perry, R. The Pipe Smokers. An Eclogue for an Unspecified Occasion (Miami, 1959)
Potter, E.D. Ode to My Pipe (Toledo, 1905)
Rayner, G.H. Notes From My Pipe. A Book of Rhyme and Verse for Smokers (Leeds, 1896)
Reynolds, D.C. A Romance in Smoke (Providence, 1876)
Sargent, J.W. Smoke and Bubbles (Chicago, Akron, and New York, 1906)
Schwartz, B.S. Stories to Smoke A Pipe By (privately printed, 1992)
Shoemaker, W.L. La Santa Yerba, Preluded by a Few Choice Mottoes from Lovers of the Indian Weed, from the Time of Sir Walter Raleigh to the Present Day (Boston, 1897)
Watkins, S. C. The Pleasures of Smoking as Expressed by those Poets, Wits and Tellers of Tales Who Have Drawn Their Inspiration from the Fragrant Weed (New York, 1948)
Webb, A. P. The Fragrant Weed (New York, 1925)
Welsh, C. The Fragrant Weed: Some of the Good Things Which Have Been Said or Sung About Tobacco (New York, 1907)
Wolcott, G.V. Rings of Smoke (Wilmingtton, 1902)

Arcania, Esoterica and Curiosa

Anon. A Bit of Advice (n.p., n.d.)
Anon. The History and Mystery of Smoking; or a Few Fragrant Whiffs of the Weed, Evolving Sundry Pleasant, Pithy and Profitable Hints Touching the Poetry of Smoking; Enlivened With Divers Curious Illustrative Anecdotes (New York, 1844)
Anon. The Smoker's, Chewer's, and Snuff-Taker's Companion, and Tobacconists Own Book (Philadelphia, New York, Boston, and Baltimore, 1841)
Anon. Opinions of the Press (Liverpool, 1878)
Anon. A Doctor's Fallacy on Smoking and Smokers, Examined and Explained by One Who
Smokes (London, 1857)

Anon. Tobacco Whiffs for the Smoking Carriage (Cornhill, 1874); Revised as Tobacco Whiffs for the Smoking Carriage. A History of the Tobacco We Smoke, &c. (2nd edition, Norwich, 1881)

Baring, M. Whiffs From a Short Briar (London, n.d.)

Barrie, J.M. My Lady Nicotine. A Study in Smoke (London, 1890, and later editions) FICTION


And L. Camp With Wholly New Revelations About the Pipe Smoker (San Francisco, 1980)

Bewlay & Co. Tobacco Leaves (London, c. 1901; second edition, c. 1902)

Blanchard, E.L. A Pipe of Tobacco: With Whiffs and Clouds (London, 1845)

Bowen, W. The Old Tobacco Shop (New York, 1922) FICTION

Cavendish (Bevan, S.) To All Who Smoke! A Few Words in Defence of Tobacco; or, A Plea for the Pipe: With Practical Observations on the Philosophy and Art of Smoking (1857)


Chispa The Fragrant Weed. Dedicated to Its Lovers (Liverpool, 1877)

Cope's The Plenipotent Key to Cope's Correct Card of the Peerless Pilgrimage to Saint Nicotine of the Holy Herb: Expounding in Prose and in Verse All the Mysteries of Its Splendid Hieroglyphs; Recording (Positively for the First Time in Print) The Authentic Legends of the Blessed Saint and Martyr Celebrating the Miraculous Virtues of the Holy Herb; Telling of the Happy Pilgrims and the Glorious Shrine...(Liverpool, 1878)

Cope's Cope The Universal Soother. Breitmann's Rauch-Lied, and Sundry Tobacconalian Ballads and Verses by Divers Pens, all Decorated & Humourously Set Forth by the Sober Pencil of Master Pipeshank (Liverpool, n.d.)

Cope’s Cope’s Leaves Gathered From His “Tobacco Plant.” For The Smoking Room (published at irregular intervals, Liverpool, 1885)

Crowquill, A. (pseud.). A Few Words About Pipes, Smoking and Tobacco (New York, 1947)

Cundall, J.W. Pipes and Tobacco. Being a Discourse on Smoking and Smokers (London, 1901)

Delamotte, W.A. Smoking and Smokers, an Antiquarian, Historical, Comical, Veritable, and Narcotical Disquisition (London, 1846)

Frankau, G. The Dominant Type of Man (London, 1925)

Gentleman, F. The Tobacconist; A Farce; Altered From Ben Jonson (London, 1821)

Glass, J. Chats Over a Pipe (London, 1922)

Hall, J. 140 Different Varieties: A Review of Tobacco in the Canon. Musgrave Monograph Number Five (Northern Musgraves, 1994)

Hatton, J. Cigarette Papers for After-Dinner Smoking (London and Philadelphia, 1892)

Hawkins, W. My Dear Old Pipe (Peterborough, 1947)


Jefford, A. Smokes (London, 1996)

Kline, B., Dr. Pipefuls and Old Stogies (Cigar and Pipe Smoker's Quote Book) (Scatts Valley, 1996)

Machen, A. The Anatomy of Tobacco; or Smoking Methodised, Divided, and Considered After a New Fashion (London, 1884; New York, 1926)

Manson, G.J. Smoking: A World of Curious Facts, Queer Fancies, and Lively Anecdotes About Pipes, Tobacco, and Cigars (New York, 1891)

Meller, H.J. Nicotiana; or the Smoker's and Snuff-Taker's Companion; Containing the History of Tobacco; Culture- Medical Qualities and the Laws Relative to Its Importation and Manufacture; With an Essay in Its Defence (London, 1832)


Phillips, C. J. The Best Tobacco Cartoons of All Time (Grand National Press, Spokane, 1992)
Potter, A.C.  Tobacco Talk and Smokers' Gossip. An Amusing Miscellany of Fact and Anecdote Relating to "The Great Plant" in All Its Forms and Uses, Including a Selection from Nicotian Literature (London, 1884)

Rice, F.P.  Sancta Croce: A Nicotian Treatise with Illustrative Antitheses (Worcester, 1887)


________. Tobacco: Its History, Cultivation, Manufacture and Adulterations (London, 1857)

An Old Harrovian (Straight, D., Sir)  Musings Over My Meerschaum (Oban, 1866)

Taylor, B. C.  The Pipesmoke Carry (Chicago, 1912)

Thompson, J.  Three Fashionable Luxuries: Namely, Smoking, Chewing, & Snuffing; or, Facts About Tobacco, Including Its History, Nature, & Effects (Scarborough, c. 1900)

Tobacco Office  Tobacco Jokes for Smoking Folks (London, 1888)

United Cigar Stores Co.  About Pipes (n.d., n. p.)

Vesuvian (pseud.).  The Smokers’ Annual (London, 1891)

Wright, F.  What Shall We Smoke? (Cheltenham, 2nd edition, n.d.)

Smoking in Other Collections

Anon.  Bachelor Ballads. Being Certain of the Masterpieces of Verse; Wherein is Set Forth the Sentiment of Good-Fellowship: Set to Pictures by Blanche McManus (New York, 1898)

Gray, A.  Bath Robes & Bachelors and Other Good Things (New York and Boston, 1897)


Some Reflections on the Industry


The American Tobacco Story (New York, 1964)

Imperial Tobacco Company, 1901-1951 (London, 1951)


Balfour, M.  Alfred Dunhill. One Hundred Years and More (London, 1992)


Brown & Williamson  The History of R. J. Hill. Purveyors to the House of Lords, Contractors to the Admiralty (London, 1942)


Downey, F.  Lorillard and Tobacco (New York, 1951)

Dunhill, M.  Our Family Business (London, 1979)


Fox, M.  The Lorillard Story (New York, 1947)

Imperial Tobacco  The Imperial Story 1901-2001. Celebrating 100 Years (Bristol, 2001)


Mack, R.J.  Tobacco Leaf and the History of Andrew Chalmers (London, 1950)

PCI  Directory of American Pipemakers (Chattanooga, 1987)

Player, John & Sons  Tobacco. From Plantation to “Players” (Bristol, 1936; revised, 1953)

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**Tobacco in Art**

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Voges, E.
Tobacco Encyclopedia (Mainz, 1984; 2nd revised and updated edition, 2000)
Note that a good briarwood pipe, with proper care, can last the owner his lifetime. In a world where most of our pleasures are designed so that we'll have to buy them again, let us bow our heads and give thanks. A pipe-tool. This ingenious device is for tamping, packing and emptying the pipe. 2. Packing and lighting the pipe. A pipe is to the troubled soul what caresses of a mother are for her suffering child. -- Indian Proverb. This section in itself is a beautiful reason to smoke a pipe. I enjoyed reading this as much as smoking my Dunhill London Mixture in my rather inexpensive briar pipe! Keep up the good work and spread the love! catholic pipe smoker. Nicotiana rustica has far more nicotine than Nicotiana tabacum and would be a bad idea for someone avoiding tobacco products. A glimpse of 10 famous pipe smoker authors and the pipes they love. The most entertaining infographic you'll read this week! The picturesque idea of author and pipe, picking away at a typewriter, brought many of us to our favorite hobby. In the first of our continuing series on famous pipe smokers we catalog ten of our favorite literary tobacco pipe smokers. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Forgive us for our bias, but no collection of notable pipe smokers could start with anyone else than the creator of Sherlock Holmes and his ever-present smoking pipe. The noted author of The Lord of the Rings Trilogy and its prequel, The Hobbit is beloved by fantasy aficionados the world over. Besides his work as a fiction author, Tolkien was a master of the English language.