

BREWERS' GUILD NEWSLETTER

(Your art here)

OCTOBER
CROWN
EDITION
A.S. XXVII

From the Chronicler

Greetings good brewers. I want to thank all the contributors to this newsletter, particularly Duncan, who not only submitted three (count 'em three) articles (I saved one for next issue), but also gave them to me on the magic scroll (diskette) thereby making my somewhat harried life easier. Ciombady has also come through for me (at the last minute as always) with a timely and pertinent article. I hope we can accept her wise (although terribly irreverent) suggestions. Thanks also to Douglas MacRae for his useful glossary. Long-time Guild members may remember that the idea of a glossary was first broached by Gerard the Esoteric in his "A Woefully Incomplete Lexicon of Brewing Phrases and Terms," which appeared in Volume 1 Issue 3. We are all indebted to Lord Douglas for carrying on this tradition.

I also want to remind those who have been hesitant to submit that I am always pleased to get any kind of submission (in any form) As always, I'd really like to get more art submissions. I've refrained from including my own art (I'm a lousy artist), and as a result, the newsletters have been a bit devoid of art, except for Master Titus's magnificent title piece, which I've been using forever. Scribble me something, please.

Also, it occurs to me that I have been hogging all the fun of doing the newsletter for some time now. Perhaps some of you have been saying, "Hey, I could do that!" or "I'd like to learn how to do that!" Well, you can, if you want. I would be happy to take on a deputy, or turn this over to my successor anytime someone expresses such an interest. Think about it and let me know.

Doing a newsletter is a lot of fun, and easier than you might think. I'm more than willing to share my humble experience. If you're interested in learning how to do a newsletter, but think you don't know how, or you don't have the necessary equipment, talk to me and we can work something out. I really enjoy doing the newsletter, but I wouldn't be polite of me to hog all the fun, and besides, more and more my mundane life demands too much of me, and I have trouble finding the time to really do it right. Is anybody interested?

Volume 2, Issue 7

From the Guildmaster

by Master Ceolgar of Amberglan

Hello brewers.

The science competition for this October Crown is fermentation, wines and meads. This is a great opportunity for us to show our stuff (and let the best mead win and no wine-ing about it). I know that brewing is so much fun that it seems somewhat silly to compete with fellow brewers, however, it is also fun to know that our talents can be appreciated on a larger scale.

Speaking of fun, our Guild rankings are our way of recognizing those who we feel as a group have promoted brewing in their own right and in helping others know the joy of their own creating. On the following page, you will find your personal Guild ranking sheet. Please record your accomplishments. In future meetings, we will be recognising those who have shown advancement.

Those who feel that they have achieved the next guild ranking should tell me or their Principality officer. We would like to recognize and honor these advancements in Guild meetings. I find that in the far-flung empire of the West, it is impossible for me to be in your kitchens/breweries. Therefore I want to encourage you to tell the Guild what you are doing. Please keep your own records, and at meetings we will share what we've been doing. If you're too embarrassed to brag about your accomplishments yourself, talk to me and I'll do it for you.

Right now, everyone in the Guild is officially an apprentice. After you document and describe your level of expertise, we will know what rank you actually have attained. I know many of you are qualified to be more than an apprentice. But I'd rather be brewing than keeping your scorecards. You know what you're doing, keep track and let the Guild know.

Everyone can wear the Brewer's Guild badge (fieldless, a laurel leaf Vert on a tun Or) on a with a green background (apprentice's color). As you progress in rank, you are entitled to wear the badge with different colored backgrounds.

I'd like to see us entering (and winning) contests, teaching, learning, brewing. And best of all, having fun.

Brewers' Guild Ranking System

Definitions:

Style: beer, wine, mead cordial, or non-alcoholic

Public Service Work: teaching a workshop, submitting articles or art to newsletters, holding a contest or tasting, etc.

Proficiency: judged competent in a style by fellow brewers in four different brewings

Rankings:

Apprentice: Anyone who wants to play. Is entitled to wear the guild badge on a green field.

Journeyman: Someone who is proficient in at least one style of brewing and has performed at least one public service work. Is entitled to wear the guild badge on a blue field.

Craftsman: Someone who is proficient in at least two styles of brewing, and has performed at least three public service works. Is entitled to wear the guild badge on a red field.

Master: To achieve this rank you must have attained the rank of craftsman, be nominated by your fellow craftsmen, and be approved by other masters. Is entitled to wear the guild badge on a purple field.

Please Note:

In the past, we have discussed including donations (jokingly called "taxes") as part of the ranking system. These donations are presented to the royalty to show our skill level and the depth of interest in our Guild. However, including donations in our ranking system could possibly be perceived to be in conflict with the laws of our land, and we don't want even the appearance of any impropriety. Therefore, let it be clear that although donations are welcomed (and well appreciated by the royalty), they are in no way required for any reason.

Practical Drinking

by Ciombady Huato Nobedar

I've been hearing some disturbing talk lately about how people are causing problems by not knowing how to drink properly. We don't want to support the arguments of proto-Prohibitionists by drinking in such a foolish manner that we run afoul of the authorities. Not only does this embarrass all "practical" drinkers, it encourages such heresy as dry sites. And we can't have that can we?

So in the interest of sharing my great and terrible experience as a seriously "practical" drunk . . . er, I mean, connoisseur of fine beverages, I would like to offer the following tips for your consideration.

First and foremost, we must remember that we drink for pleasure. The taste of a fine ale, mead, wine, or cordial is truly a divine experience. Sharing fine beverages with friends, and experiencing the camaraderie that develops over a long moonlit night spent around a fire sipping fine fermented fruits is an experience to be treasured. On the other hand, puking your guts out on the Eric does not (in my, and many other people's opinion) either add to your pleasure or increase other's opinions of you.

Fortunately, it is fairly easy to be the suave connoisseur rather than the disgusting drunk. You and your friends (not to mention the autocrat and other powers-that-be) will appreciate it if you learn to extend your fun thusly:

Before:

Eat. Always eat your main meal before you begin drinking. If you want to start drinking at noon, fine—just eat a huge lunch beforehand. Try to also eat as you go, especially if you plan to drink for a long time. But most importantly, eat well *before* you start.

Drink water too. Alcoholic beverages never can be substituted for plain, pure water. You need to drink at least eight glasses of water per day (more in hot climes or if you are fighting) just to maintain. Drink this ration *before* you start drinking. You also need to drink an extra glass of water for every glass of alcoholic beverage you plan to consume.

And if you wish to feel like a live person the next day after a hard night of imbibing, drink a *big* glass of water before going to bed. If you want to be a practical drinker you must avoid hangovers—they make you so crazy you might even entertain thoughts of not drinking again. Hangovers are caused by dehydration and loss of B and C vitamins. So drink your water and take your vitamins—before (as well as after) you start partying.

During:

Sip don't guzzle. You'll get more flavor and enjoyment, and spare yourself a lot of grief. Don't fall into the trap of thinking that you better drink it up while

you can. There will be more drinking to do tomorrow. If you drink yourself to death (no lie) in one night, you lose the many future nights of pleasure.

Speak softly. This is a great clue as to whether you are out of line or not. And don't babble. Listen to others. If you're loud, babbling, and inconsiderate of others, it's time to go home. Do so.

Always drink with a partner. Trust you partner enough to listen to him or her when he or she suggests that maybe you've had enough. Don't be afraid to tell your partner that he or she has had enough.

When you've had enough, go home. My rule of thumb is that when I can't walk to the privy without help (see "drinking with a partner" above) it's time to go home.

Hosting:

If you are hosting a party, offer food and non-alcoholic beverages to your guests as well. Make sure you have a "fun" non-alcoholic drink, such as spiced cider, to offer those who seem to be getting out of hand (also for your friends who are eschewing or limiting their alcohol intake). Hot spiced cider, cocoa, or good coffee, or whatever, gives your friends an excuse to drink something pleasant without imbibing too much alcohol.

Always make sure, whether or not you are the host of the party, that under-age people don't have access to the booze. Don't fall into the trap of pseudo-hospitality by forgetting to question people about their age. And don't assume that when you see an under-age person drinking that it isn't your responsibility to say something and prevent this. Failing to obey the laws of our state is not only intrinsically wrong and dishonorable, it could affect our ability to enjoy our drinking legally.

If someone has managed (despite your efforts) to get really plastered and seems near death, for Odin's sake, talk to the Chiurgeon in charge. This is a last resort that wouldn't come up if they had been drinking properly, but letting someone die of alcohol poisoning would probably seriously adversely affect our ability to continue to get wet sites.

And I don't know about you, but I don't want some stupid drunk to spoil my drinking pleasure. We're a society based on honor, so we should always comport ourselves honorably. We're also a society based on friendship, so we should help our friends avoid dishonoring themselves. If we can follow these simple precepts, we should be able to enjoy ourselves, our camaraderie, and our fine brews without problem. Let's sip those fine brews, around a dancing fire and under a sparkling moonlit sky, in peace and harmony.

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