



"Pipesmithing is a tradition in my family. My grandfather was pipesmith to many aristocrats of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Some of his tall, elegant, silvermounted pipes have now become collector's items. Of course, my pleasure comes from continuing this high standard of craftsmanship in the handcut briar pipes I make for my customers all over the world".

Pipe Talk

Pipe: Narrow tube of clay, wood, etc. with bowl at one end for drawing in smoke of tobacco. Oxford English Dictionary.

Briar: This is the closely-grained burl joint between the stem and roots of the White Heath, a tree found on the hillsides of many Mediterranean countries.

Bit: The part of the pipe stem that fits in the mouth.

Bowl: The part of the pipe that holds the tobacco.

Heel: The base of the inside of the pipe bowl.

Shank: The part of the pipe that joins the bowl and the stem.

Stem: The part that connects the shank with the bit. Examine it carefully. Its quality, finish and fit will reveal the maker's carelessness or attention to detail.

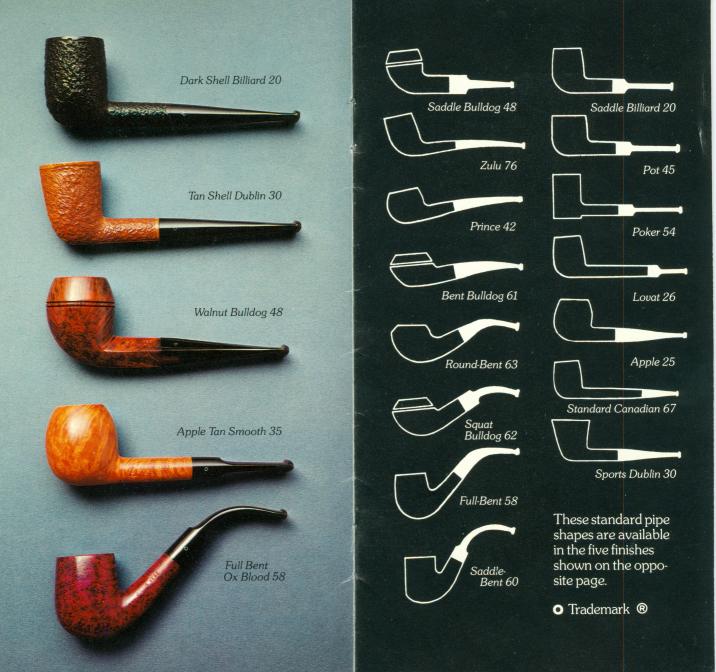
Tobacco: A member of the plant family Solanaceae which also includes tomato and potato plants. Around 40 kinds of tobacco exist.

Quality: Tobacco is graded by leaf type and quality. There are five grades—choice, fine, good, fair and low. These are set by the tobacco's uniformity, texture, age, oil, body, colouring etc.

Nicotiana: The botanical name for tobacco after Jean Nicot who introduced tobacco into Europe around 1560.

Raleigh, Sir Walter: He popularized smoking at Queen Elizabeth's court around the mid 15th century and was believed to be the first to smoke a pipe in England.

Tobago: Columbus discovered it in 1498, and according to legend, named it after the shape of a Carib pipe smoked on the island.





"A pipe! Is a great soother, a pleasant comforter. Blue devils fly before its honest breath. It ripens the brain, it

opens the heart; and the man who smokes it thinks and acts like a Samaritan".

Lord Bulwer-Lytton, 1841.



"With what a genius for administration,



We rearrange the rumbling universe,



And map the course of man's regeneration

Over a pipe!"

W. E. Henley



"Think of that eloquently silent evening at Craigenputtock in 1833 when Carlyle and Emerson, on either side of the fireplace, puffed soberly with never a spoken word till midnight and

then parted shaking hands with mutual congratulations on the profitable and pleasant evening they had spent".

W. G. Hutchinson, Lyra Nicotiana, 1898.

The pipe for you

Here are some simple guidelines to follow in selecting the right pipe for you. First, and most important, spend as much money on your pipe as you can reasonably afford. A pipe made from inferior briar will never give you a good smoke. But a pipe made from good briar, even with imperfections that do not affect its smoking qualities, will give you great pleasure at low cost.

Select your pipe to suit your face and character. A pipe is an accessory and it should complement your physique and personality. Your pipe must look attractive, feel "right" in your hand and in your mouth. The bowl diameter is important. First-time pipe smokers should choose a bowl with a fairly small diameter. Make sure the pipe is lightweight. And remember to consider what you're going to be doing while you'll be smoking. For example, while reading you may want a long stemmed pipe so the smoke doesn't get in your eyes. A curved stem is the easiest to hold with your teeth and is best if you work with the pipe in your mouth.

There are other important aspects to choosing a pipe and an enjoyable part of my work is helping my customers to discover the right pipe.

The right tobacco

The greatest appeal of the pipe comes from the taste and aroma of the tobacco. You may find yourself a pipe that fits like a touchstone into your hand and sits beautifully in your mouth, only to be disappointed when you

smoke it because of the wrong choice of tobacco.

If you're new to pipe smoking, then I would suggest a tobacco of medium strength and cut reasonably coarse. The next little "trick" is to puff or draw on your pipe gently. A medium tobacco will be stronger than a "fine cut" tobacco but it will give you a mellower taste when puffed gently. As you become more familiar with your pipe, you'll want to experiment with other tobaccos of varying strengths and cuts. Many manufacturers have "samplers" featuring several different kinds of their blends. These offer a low-cost and rather adventurous method of discovering the pleasures of pipe smoking.



Enjoying your pipe

Even in this age of push-button living and technological wizardry, the pipe has stubbornly refused to change. It remains what it has always been for hundreds of years: a small furnace that must be lit and stoked by hand.

It is the most esthetically pleasing, most efficient method yet devised through which the smoker receives the full enjoyment of tobacco. And all you must do to obtain such pleasure, is to observe certain fundamental rules of pipe smoking.

1. Treat a new pipe gently.

2. Lightly moisten the bowl with water *before* your first pipeful of tobacco.

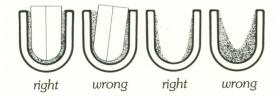
3. Fill your bowl correctly—loose at the bottom, medium-packed in the middle and hard on the top.

4. Clean your pipe before you put it away.

5. Clean the stem with a fresh cleaner after each smoke.

6. Leave a fresh cleaner in the stem overnight.

7. Clean out the bowl regularly with a pipe "reamer" as illustrated below.



Pipe accessories

Smoking a pipe can provide a man with a delightful ritual, which becomes even more enjoyable with experience.

Apart from the pipe, the tobacco and the technique of pipe smoking pipe accessories

can also determine the degree to which you will enjoy your pipe. PIPE CLEANERS. They are indispensable. And inexpensive. The two basic types are soft and fluffy to dry up moisture and thin and wiry to dig out deposits. LIQUID PIPE CLEANERS. Known as pipe sweetners, they dissolve the gum and tar while leaving a fresh aroma in the bowl, stem and mouthpiece. SMOKER'S COMPANION. Among the most useful of all pipe accessories. It's a spoon, pick and tamper in a metal holder. THE REAMER. Another 'must', for properly cleaning out the bowl. HUMIDORS. If you're storing larger quantities of tobacco, or do a lot of your own blending, a humidor will keep your tobacco in prime condition. PIPE RACK. Useful when you own more than one pipe. To get the most out of pipe smoking, you should rotate about six pipes during the week.

