1-1-1961

Barclay's "Nepenthes, or The Vertues of Tabacco" with an introduction.

Walter H. Armes
University of Windsor

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholar.uwindsor.ca/etd

Recommended Citation
https://scholar.uwindsor.ca/etd/6292
BARCLAY'S NEPENTHES, OR THE VIRTUES OF TABACCO

WITH AN INTRODUCTION

Submitted to the Department of English
of Assumption University of Windsor
in partial fulfilment of the
requirements for the degree
of Master of Arts

by

Walter H. Armes, B. A.

The Faculty of Graduate Studies
1961

ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
INFORMATION TO USERS

The quality of this reproduction is dependent upon the quality of the copy submitted. Broken or indistinct print, colored or poor quality illustrations and photographs, print bleed-through, substandard margins, and improper alignment can adversely affect reproduction.

In the unlikely event that the author did not send a complete manuscript and there are missing pages, these will be noted. Also, if unauthorized copyright material had to be removed, a note will indicate the deletion.
Approved for the Faculty of Graduate Studies

[Signatures]

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.
ABSTRACT

This thesis presents an edition of *Nepenthes, or The Vertues of Tabacco*, written by William Barclay of Edinburgh in 1614.

Shortly after the introduction of tobacco into England, which occurred probably within a couple of years of 1565, there were written, by divers people, a group of pamphlets dealing with the new habit of pipe smoking which had swept England. These pamphlets constitute an excellent example of Elizabethan and Jacobean pamphleteering and give a good cross-section of the various styles and methods used by the writers who are the direct ancestors of the later journalists. One of these pamphlets was written by no less eminent a person than King James I.

A search for some of these pamphlets revealed that none of them are readily accessible in modern issues. Only two, *A Warning for Chimney-sweepers* and King James's *Counterblaste to Tabacco* have been re-printed in this century. The pamphlet presented here has been only once re-issued since it was first published, and that was in 1841. Considering that these pamphlets are not only good examples of their genre and valuable social documents, but are almost inaccessible to the modern reader or student,
it seemed that a new edition of one of them, glossed for the modern reader, would be a valuable addition to available literature.

I have also included an extensive introduction which attempts to give a picture of the effects and controversy which tobacco gave rise to early in its career in England. Read in conjunction with Nepenthes it should give a well-balanced picture of this one aspect of Renaissance English culture.
PREFACE

While this thesis has been written as part of the requirement for the degree of Master of Arts at Assumption University of Windsor, it also represents an interest in the subject which I have developed over a period of several years. The search for the perfect tobacco and the perfect pipe which must engross every dedicated pipe smoker has been a problem to me for at least five years. Efforts to solve these problems have led to an interest in the whole history of tobacco. An especial interest in the period covered here has developed in general from extensive studies in this period, and in particular, from my first meeting with Abel Drugger in Jonson's Alchemist three years ago. I was fascinated with the ideas concerning tobacco presented in that play, and began searching for similar ideas in other literature of the time. This led to a short paper two years ago which, in turn, was the basis for this thesis.

The decision to present an edition of one of the tobacco pamphlets arose from the scarcity of these interesting works in modern editions. It was my feeling, that, made available in a modern edition, at least one of these works would be useful both to the student of literature as well as the student of social history.
Likewise, it might be of interest to many smokers, particularly in light of the controversy which surrounds tobacco even today.

For its patience and advice, I would like to thank the English Department at Assumption, headed by Fr. C. P. Crowley. Special thanks must go to Dr. John F. Sullivan, my thesis director, for his assistance on the set-up of the paper and for his advice on many technical problems. Fr. D. J. Mulvihill, head of the History Department at Assumption, who was the third member of my graduate committee, along with Fr. Crowley and Dr. Sullivan, furnished helpful criticism when I was preparing my final draft. Valuable suggestions were also made by Allan Grant and Peter Preel. Herbert Cameron, my high school Latin teacher, helped translate the Latin and Greek passages which occur in the pamphlet.

Assistance in preparing the typed draft was gratefully received from Patricia Patterson. The excellent job of preparing the final copy is the work of Phil Phelps whose ability at typing has been exceeded only by his infinite patience in dealing with the many last minute corrections made by the author, who must be held responsible for any errors which may appear in the thesis. A final thanks must, of course, be tendered to my parents who have made it possible for me to undertake the work.

vi
TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT

PREFACE

CHAPTER
   I   Introduction                     1
   II  A Brief History                 6
   III Early Vocabulary and Customs   13
   IV  The Attack On Tobacco          21
   V   Tobacco On Stage               27
   VI  The Tobacco Pamphlets          35
   VII Introduction to Nepenthes      60

NEPENTHES, OR THE VIRTUES OF TABACCO  63

BIBLIOGRAPHY                         89
I
Introduction

The arrival of tobacco in England represents one of those rare occasions where it is possible to observe the results of the introduction of a new social pastime to a nation. In England, this novelty of taking tobacco had a significant effect upon religious, economic, political, and even domestic life; it became the subject of a controversy which still flourishes today; and as a consequence, it took a prominent place in Elizabethan and Jacobean literature. The effect, as far as religion goes, was that tobacco set another point of demarcation between the Established Church, in which it was common for the clergy to smoke, and the Puritan sectaries, who were greatly offended at the thought of a cleric defiling himself with smoke, thus aligning himself with the free-living court circles. Economically, it furnished a new business venture for merchants. By 1614, Barnabe Rich estimated that there were seven thousand businesses in London alone depending on the tobacco trade for an annual income of £319,375. Although these

---

The Irish Hubbub (London, 1617), p. 46.
figures represent only a guess, and possibly a poor one at that, they do give an idea of the proportions of this new business. In politics, when King James I made his decision to have Sir Walter Raleigh beheaded, he may have been not a little influenced by the fact that Raleigh had done so much to promote that new fad which was particularly odious to the king. On the domestic front, there are numerous allusions to wives complaining about the unwelcome smell brought into the house by smokers. Mrs. Mulligrub, a character in Marston's play, The Dutch Curtezean (1605) commands her servant to perfume the par­lour because it "do's so smell of prophane Tobacco" (Act II, III).

The controversy which developed around tobacco arose over the questions about how it affected a person's health; and how it influenced the moral tone of the nation. The moralists, who looked upon tobacco as a vice, attempted to have it suppressed by arguing that it was a menace to life. The smokers rebutted that tobacco was an herb which not only had nearly miraculous medicinal qualities, but was the companion of good fellowship. The number of cigarettes smoked today demonstrates that the smokers won, even though they were probably wrong in their claims that tobacco was healthful.

The excitement over tobacco carried into almost all branches of literature, including travel literature, poetry, history, character sketches, and pamphlets, the journalistic writing of the time. With the exception of the unique group of tobacco pamphlets, the richest source of literary reference to tobacco is found in the drama. Here, as well as in the other forms, we have an interesting documentation of the effects which this habit had upon those first generations of English smokers. In turn, the many allusions to tobacco occurring in this literature can often be confusing, or at least without meaning, because today we do not realize the importance of the tobacco controversy during the reigns of Elizabeth and James I, and we are equally unfamiliar with the particular customs and vocabulary of those early smokers. By exploring the literary allusions to tobacco during approximately its first fifty years in England, I will attempt to clarify the Elizabethan tobacco controversy for the modern reader.

The extent of the interest in tobacco during this period is pointed out most effectively by the group of "tobacco pamphlets" which began to appear in 1595. The Cambridge Bibliography of English Literature lists as a separate classification, twenty such pamphlets published by 1620. Furthermore, it does not take into consideration any works which may have been circulated in manuscript, a custom which was popular in those days as
a holdover from the era before printing.

This body of literature, which is singled out for mention in such standard works as the Cambridge History of English Literature and Douglas Bush's English Literature in the Earlier Seventeenth Century, has been curiously neglected by scholars, although these works are excellent examples of the less scurrilous Elizabethan pamphleteering. I am aware of only two articles on the subject which have appeared recently in the learned journals. In histories of tobacco, the literary influence of tobacco is invariably glossed over in one chapter. The best of these histories for literary examples was published in 1859 and has since become both scarce and outdated.

Of the pamphlets themselves, only two have been reproduced in this century: the anonymous Work for Chimneysweeps (1601) which was published in facsimile by the Shakespeare Association in 1936, and King James's A Counter-blaste to Tobacco which was published by Thomas Yoseloff of New York and was in print in 1959. Prior to this, the Counter-blaste was printed three times in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, and another pamphlet, Nepenthes, or The Virtues of Tobacco (1614)

---

was published in London by the Spalding Club in 1841.
The first two represent the anti-tobacco faction, whereas the last is in favour of using tobacco.

Considering the rarity of these tobacco pamphlets, I have prepared an edition of *Nepenthes*, in order that the modern student of Elizabethan and Jacobean literature may be able to familiarize himself with the smoking habits of this first generation of English smokers as well as with the controversy and literature which sprang from their use of the newly discovered weed. The edition is divided into two parts: in the first, consisting of introductory material, I have discussed the Elizabethan and tobacco under the headings of history, vocabulary and use, the arguments which arose over tobacco, tobacco on the stage, and the tobacco pamphlets in general; in the second part, I have presented the pamphlet *Nepenthes*.

It is my hope that in preparing this edition, I have produced a work which is not only informative, but entertaining as well, for it represents a pipe-smoker's tribute to those men, who, by writing about tobacco, either in praise or condemnation, helped to popularize the habit.
II
A Brief History

In 1492, Europeans made their first acquaintance with tobacco, and a new social phenomenon was introduced—a habit which has ever since been variously and continuously either eulogized or condemned. In the entry for November 6, 1492, in Columbus’s journal, two scouts sent ashore to explore the coast report having seen "many people on the road going home, men and women, with a half-burnt weed in their hands, being the herbs they are accustomed to smoke." This is the first record we have of tobacco, one of the many new plants found in the New World and one which proved to be economically very important. Perhaps because of the uniqueness of the habit, tobacco henceforth is consistently mentioned by explorers. An interesting example is Jacques Cartier, whom I will include partly for reasons of patriotism and partly because John Florio’s translation of Cartier’s Voyages for Hakluyt’s Principal Voyages and Navigations (1580) helped introduce the English to Canada. With a delightful naïveté, the writer of the journal explains

1 The Journal of Christopher Columbus (During his first voyage, 1492-93), trans. Clements R. Markham (London, 1893), p. 71. This journal is an abstract of Columbus’s original journal (now lost) which was made with reference to the original by Bartolome De Las Casas.
of the Indians that after packing their pipes, which
were made either of wood or stone, with tobacco, they
lay a coal of fire upon them and

at the other ende sucke so long that they
fill their bodies full of smoke, till that
it cometh out of their mouth and nostrils,
even as out of the Tonnell of a chimney.
They say that this doth keep them warme
and in health; they never goe without some
of it about them. We ourselves have tryed
the same smoke, and having put it in our
mouthes, it seemed almost as hot as pepper.2

Other early reports and accounts of tobacco can
be found in any of the various histories of tobacco list-
ed in the bibliography. Since we are interested here in
tobacco as it was introduced into England, our first
source is in the report of Sir John Hawkins's first voy-
age to the West Indies during 1562 and 1563. His descrip-
tion of the use of tobacco by the Indians in Florida is
essentially the same as Cartier's, but he adds the curious
fiction that these Indians were able to live on tobacco
alone for four or five consecutive days.

2 The Voyages of Jacques Cartier, in Early English
and French Voyages Chiefly from Hakluyt, 1534-1608, ed.
Henry S. Burrage (New York, 1930), p. 68. This passage
is from the journal of the second voyage, 1535-1536, and
is the Florio translation.

3 Sir John Hawkins's First Voyage To The West
Indies, Oct. 1562-Sept. 1563, A.D., in Voyages and Trav-
els, Mainly During The 16th and 17th Centuries, ed. C.
Raymond Beazley (Westminster, 1903), I, 74-75. This set
is from a re-edited issue of Edward Arber's An English
Garner (1877-1890).
The report of his voyage around the world in 1577 by Francis Drake mentions that the Indians of California, where he had stopped for some time to take on provisions, brought gifts of "feathers and bags of tobacco", and the tone of this statement seems to indicate that the writer was sufficiently acquainted with tobacco to take it for granted.

By 1585, the New World was sufficiently known for Sir Walter Raleigh to send out a colony to Virginia with the hope that it would become a valuable commercial enterprise. The colony was led by Sir Richard Grenville, and among the troop was Thomas Harriot, who wrote *A Brief and True Report of the New Found Land of Virginia*. This is an account of the plant and animal life of the country, in which he considered its commercial potential, and gave advice as to what new colonists could expect from it. Harriot's report tells how the Indians used tobacco as a sacrifice to their gods: "Sometime they make hallowed fires and cast some of the powder therein for a sacrifice; being in a storme uppon the waters, to pacifie their gods, they cast some up into the aire and into the water."

He makes this comment about his own experience with tobacco:

We ourselves during the time we were there used to suck it after their manner, as also since our returne, and have found many rare and wonderful experiments of the vertues thereof; of which the relation would require a volume by itself: the use of it by so many of late, men and women of great calling as else, and some learned Phisitians also, is sufficient witness.5

The exact date when tobacco was introduced into England is not definitely known. Hawkins probably brought tobacco back with him in 1563 as is reported in Stowe's Annales, edited by Edmund Howes in 1615. The Annales adds that tobacco was not used for some years after this, and, which sounds contradictory, a few paragraphs earlier, it is stated that "Apricocks, Mellycatsons, Muske-Millions and Tobacco came into England about the twentieth year of Queene Elizabeth." (The twentieth year of Elizabeth would have been from November 17, 1577, to November 16, 1578.) Considering the nature of the passage, this last statement may mean that tobacco was planted and grown in England for the first time in those years. To confuse the issue further, a sidenote mentions that Sir Walter Raleigh


6 This is from a passage cited by F. J. Furnivall in Harrison's Description of England, pt. 2. (London, 1878), pp. 33-34.
"brought the first knowledge of Tobacco," a matter which foregoing material seriously disputes.

There is one other major reference which indicates that tobacco was being grown in England: William Harrison's An Historiocal Description of the Island of Britaine which was written to prefix Holinshed's Chronicles (1577, 1586). There is a section which first appears in the 1586 edition on "Gardens and Orchards" in which Harrison attacks the vogue among English gardeners for new plants and herbs imported from the Indies and the Orient.

How doo men extoll the use of Tobacco in my time, whereas in truth (whether the cause be in the repugnancie of our constitution unto the operation thereof, or that the ground dooth alter his force, I cannot tell) it is not found of so great efficacie as they do write.7

If there is some question concerning how the tobacco habit was started in England, there is no question about popular belief on the matter. Tradition has given the distinction for introducing tobacco plainly and solely to Sir Walter Raleigh, although there is no record that he ever claimed this himself. There is no evidence that Raleigh was associated with the weed prior to the period of his colony in Virginia. His only mention of tobacco in his own writing is a passing reference in his report, The Discoverie of Guinea, written in 1596.

But there is little question that Raleigh became an ardent pipe smoker and this, coupled with his eminence at Court, may account for the tradition.

Joseph Hall mentions in his unusual work, The Discovery of a New World (ca. 1605) that tobacco was brought into "Fooliana" (i.e., England) by "one Rollo Warallador, an ungodly fellow of this country (though one of good place)." "Rollo Warallador" is an obvious anagram for Walter Raleigh. John Aubrey in his "Life of Sir Walter Raleigh" says that "Sir Walter was the first that brought tobacco into England and into fashion" and mentions the legend that Raleigh took a pipe in order to settle his nerves just before going to the block. James Howell in a letter to Henry Hopkins dated January 1, 1646, gives Raleigh credit for introducing tobacco and recounts the story that Raleigh once wagered Queen Elizabeth that he could demonstrate how much smoke was contained in a pipe of tobacco. He filled a pipe, weighed it, and then smoked it. He then weighed the pipe again, demonstrating that the difference

---


between the two weights must have been accounted for by the weight of the smoke.
III
Early Vocabulary and Customs

Since tobacco was a plant unknown in European
countries and smoking was an activity without a fore-
runner, new words had to be coined and old ones made
to do new service for this new discovery. The English
word tobacco, according to the Oxford English Dictionary,
is an altered form of the Spanish tabaco, a spelling
which was often used by sixteenth century English writ-
ers. The dictionary gives this information about the
derivation of the word. Gonzalo Oviedo in his Historia
de las Indies (1535) said that tabaco was the Carib
Indian term for a Y-shaped pipe they used for smoking.
Bartolome de Las Casas, who was Bishop of Chiapa in
Mexico for some time and who edited Columbus's Journal,
said that, instead, tabaco was a crude sort of cigar
used by the Indians. However, the OED states that the
word was in use by the Spanish to refer to both the plant
and its processed leaves before either of these men men-
tioned it. There is a third derivation given by Nicholas
Monardes, a Spanish physician who wrote a treatise on
the herbs of the new world in 1565. This work was trans-
lated into English by John Frampton in 1577 under the ti-
tle Joyfull Newes out of the Newe Founde World. Monardes
says, "for the name of Tabaco is given to it of our Spaniards by reason of an Ilande that is named Tabaco." 1 This derivation found favour among early English writers who must have thought it reasonable that tabaco should come from Tobago. Of these three sources, none can be positively ruled out. Thus we have two mysteries concerning tobacco: who first smoked it in England, and what was the origin of the word.

Tobacco was sold in several forms, and these various methods of preparation brought new additions to the tobacco vocabulary. It might be referred to by its place of origin, as "Trinidad," "Florida," and "Virginia." Other common synonyms derived from the manner in which the tobacco was processed. It might be in its natural form of "leaf," it might be compressed into "pudding" or "ball," containing molasses or some other binder, it might be twisted and called "roll," or it might be the stems of the plant and called "cane."

People who used tobacco—smokers we would call them—were referred to as "tobaccoists," a word which has now shifted its meaning to refer to tobacco merchants. In a derogatory sense, a smoker might be called a "whiffler." The act of smoking was called "drinking tobacco" although the expressions to whiff and to inhale tobacco were also used. A tobacco merchant was either a "tobacco-seller"

or a "tobacco-man". Apothecaries were the first tobacco dealers and so "apothecary" was often the equivalent of "tobacco-seller".

Tobacco was usually smoked in pipes made from clay or silver or from walnut shells equipped with a straw stem. Cigars were either unknown or were not smoked because their price would have been prohibitive.

There is some reference to taking snuff (especially in some poems by Samuel Rowlands) but this was then an uncommon way of taking tobacco which did not become popular until after the Restoration. Aubrey mentions in his "Life of Raleigh" that it was a custom in his grandfather's time to pass a pipe from hand to hand when gentlemen sat down to smoke.

The smoker had to provide himself with both a means for carrying his tobacco and of lighting his pipe. Tobacco boxes made of ivory or precious metals were favoured among the gallants who could afford them, as likewise were silver pipes. Leather bags with a drawstring were the common sort of tobacco container. The pipes were lit by laying a coal, of juniper where possible,

---


on the tobacco, or by using a taper of paper or wood which could be lit in an open fire. In Chapman's play, *All Fools* (1605), Dariotto says, "my boy once lighted a pipe of cane tobacco with a piece of a vile ballad, and I'll swear I had a singing in my head a whole 4 week after" (V, i). Out of doors, the smoker could use a burning-glass to kindle his pipe.

Tobacco was an expensive luxury for the early smoker. This accounts for its popularity among the courtiers and for some of the scurrilous practices of the tobacco-sellers which will be mentioned later. In 1604, King James, in order to suppress the habit, increased the import duty on tobacco from two pence per pound to a rate of six shillings, eight pence per pound, an increase of 4000 per cent. If we take G. B. Harrison's evaluation of the purchasing power of the Elizabethan pound in terms of our money at one shilling worth two dollars, this duty would amount to thirteen dollars 6 per pound. The anonymous play, *Evening Woman in Her Humour*.

---


(1609) prices tobacco at six pence for half an ounce or sixteen shillings per pound, while a "case of Tobacco pipes" is worth only four pence. Another play has tobacco, "the best in Europe" costing ten crowns an ounce, and while this is an obvious exaggeration, it does show how ruinous tobacco smoking was considered to be and why Scumbroath, the cook in Dekker's play, *If This Be Not a Good Play, the Devil Is In It* (1612), could say:

> But two sinnes have undone me, prodigalitie, and covetousnesse: and three pees have peppered me, the Punck, the Pot, and the Pipe of smoake, out of my pocket my gold did soake. (IV, ii, 129-131)

But in spite of James's attempts to limit the tobacco trade it expanded steadily. New shops must have been opening daily if Rich's account (see p. 5 above) was accurate. It seems surprising that women apparently often set up in the tobacco business. In another play by Dekker, *The Roaring Girl*, the character Goshawke remarks that, "tis many a good woman's fortune, when her husband turns bankrupt, to begin with pipes and set up again" (II, ii, 7-11).

---


A more extended passage in *If This Be Not Good,*... shows Bravo, a pimp, petitioning a magistrate to close up all the "shee-tobacco-shops" because:

They that had been wont to spend a crowne about a smocke, have now their delight dog-chespe, but for spending one quarter of that mony in smoake. (II, ii, 78-81)

The tobacco merchant was probably the most disliked and mistrusted business-man in London. He was railed at not only by the anti-tobacco faction, but by the smoker as well, because, even if he were honest, his stuff was too expensive, and quite often, judging from the literature, he was far from honest. He was universally suspected of adulterating his tobacco to make it go further. It was not uncommon to add aromatic spices or herbs, such as aniseed, to tobacco to improve its flavour and aroma, a practice still used in preparing pipe tobacco. Tobacco sellers also developed the technique of taking the leaves from a common weed, the dock, and adding this to their tobacco stock. The apothecaries who sold tobacco were probably the most ready to doctor their merchandise. This description of "Abel Dragger, a tobacco man" from Jonson's *The Alchemist* (1610) gives a good picture of the practices of some of his fellows as well as describing the tools of their trade:

This is my friend, Abel, an honest fellow; he lets me have good tobacco, and he does not sophisticate it with sack lees or oil,
nor washes it in muscadel and grains, nor buries it in gravel under ground, wrapped up in greasy leather or pissed clouts, but keeps it in fine lily pots, that, opened, smell like conserve of roses, or French beans. He has his maple block, his silver tongs, Winchester pipes, and fire of juniper. (I, iii, 22-31)\textsuperscript{11}

The maple block was used for cutting up roll or pudding tobacco into shreds that could be packed in a pipe; the silver tongs were for handling the coal to light the pipe; Winchester pipes were clay pipes which were famous for many years (most of the clay pipes used nowadays are made in Holland); and the fire of juniper was for providing the coal.

The reference to urine may be an exaggeration, but it occurs often. In the anonymous play, The Return to Parnassus (Part I, 1599), tobacco is called "nothing but a docke leafe stept in a chamberpot"* and in Middleton's play, A Fair Quarrel (1617) the tobacco-seller, Vapour, is cursed thus: "May thy roll rot, and thy pudding drop in pieces, being sophisticated with filthy


urine!" (IV, i, 218-219). If this was not in fact a practise, at least it shows the public's opinion of these dealers.

13

The medicinal quality of tobacco appears to have been the chief argument used by the smoking side in the controversy. The non-smokers' arguments were generally moralistic. King James openly stated his position in 1604 when he raised the import duty on tobacco. In the *Commissio Pro Tobacco* which established this increase, he says:

> Whereas Tabacco, being a Drugge of late yeres found out, and by Merchants, as well Denizens as Strangers, brought from for- reign Partes in small quantitie into this Realm of England and other of our Dom- inions, was used and taken by the better sort both them and nowe onlie as Phisicke to preserve Healthe, and is nowe at this day, through euell Custome and the Tolleration thereof, excessivelie taken by a number of ryotous and disordered Persons of meane and base Condition, whoe, contrarie to the use which Persons of good Callinge and Qualitye make thereof, doe spend most of there tyme in that idle Vanitie, to the evil example and corrupting of others, and also do consume that Wages whiche manye of them gett by theire Labour, wherewith there Families should be releived ... by wich great and imoderate taking of Tabacco the Health of a great number of our People is impayred, and theire Bodies weakened and made unfit for Labor ...

He makes approximately the same case, considerably

---

expanded, in his unsigned *Counterblast to Tobacco*.

Perhaps because tobacco had come from the heathen Indies, it was associated with the devil by those who would condemn it. *Joyful Newes out of the Newe Founde worlde* set this out in the beginning with the remark that:

> And as the Devil is a deceiver, and hath the knowledge of the vertue of Herbes, he did shewe them the Indians the vertue of this Herbe, that by the means thereof, they might see their imaginations, and visions, that he hath represented to them, and by that means doeth deceive them.®

Thomas Nashe, in his pamphlet, *Pierse Pennilesse* (1592), accounts for the Devil having a black face and being called the "Black Prince" by saying "It is suspected you have been a great Tobacco taker in your youth which causeth it to come so to passe."

One of the most productive writers on James's side was Samuel Rowlands, a poet noted for his satires and epigrams of contemporary men and customs. Two of his works were ordered burned in 1600 because of their scurrility. In one of his satires, entitled *The Knave of Harts* (1612) he describes a "prodigall knave" or gallant, who:

---


In a Tobacco-shop (resembling hell, Fire, stink, and smoake must be where devels dwell) He sits, you cannot see his face for vapour, 4 offering to Pluto with a tallow Taper.

In another piece, The Knave of Spades (1613) he explains how tobacco came to the Earth. Vulcan was initiated into its use by a minor devil sent to him by Pluto because both Vulcan and Pluto dealt in fire. The gods, however, were so offended by Vulcan's smoking that Jove had Mercury cast his pipes and tobacco from heaven to earth where the "Blackamores" found them and from where they passed to Europe. The French, Dutch and Italians soon learned to smoke like the Spaniards:

But the English to Disgrace them all did strive, His nose should smoke with any nose alive. 5

Here is another example of the association of the Devil and tobacco in John Ford's play The Lovers Melancholy (1628-1629) where "Cucculas, like a Bedlam" sings:

They that will learn to drink a health in hell Must learn on earth to take tobacco well, To take tobacco well, to take tobacco well; For in hell they drink nor wine nor ale nor beer,

5 Ibid., II; pp. 21-22 of this poem.
But fire and smoke and stench, as we do here.

The argument was raised that it was not in keeping with the advanced state of British civilization for Englishmen to ape the Indians by smoking and thus adopting a savage custom. In the Counterblast, James asks:

And now good Countrey men let us (I pray you) consider, what honour or policie can moove us to imitate the barbarous and beastly maners of the wilde, godlesse, and slavish Indians, especially in the use of so vile and stinking a custome?...why doe we not as well imitate them in walking naked as they doe? in preferring glasses, feathers, and such toyes, to golde and precious stones, as they do? yea why do we not denie God and adore the Devill, as they doe?

A third argument is echoed in this passage from Every Man in his Humor by Jonson (1598):

By God's me, I mar'll what pleasure or felicity they have in taking this roguish tabacco! It's good for nothing but to choke a man, and fill him full of smoke and embers...(III, V, 105-108).

Or, as Howlands puts it:

But this same poysen, steeped India weede,
In heed, hart, lunges, doth soote and copwebs breede.\(^9\) (Epigram 18)

While this is hardly a moral attack on tobacco, it does seem to echo the old saw that if man had been intended to smoke, nature would have equipped him with a chimney.

A fourth argument turned against the tobacco habit was that it produced an annoying odor or stench. "Stinking weed" was another synonym for the "divine herb."

There were also serious attempts to attack tobacco on medical grounds—\(\text{Work for Chimny-Sweepers}\) was the first in 1601. Although this pamphlet sinks in one place to denouncing tobacco by linking it with the Devil, it generally argues that the natural heat of tobacco was so great that it was too strong to be used as a curative. This pamphlet also defined the idea, then prevalent among the anti-tobacconists, that smoking "dryeth up the sperme and seed of man" and was therefore a threat to the race.

Fortunately for smokers, the chief results which came from the efforts of these non-smokers to


\(^{10}\) \textit{Work for Chimny-Sweepers, or, A warning for Tobacconists}, introd. S. M. Atkins (Oxford, 1936), pgr.
cleanse the country of tobacco was that tobacco received further publicity, and the "evil weed" was preserved for future generations.
V

Tobacco On Stage

There are various reasons why tobacco became a popular allusion on the Elizabethan stage. It provided a means of identifying places and characters on the stage as well as adding realism in descriptions of taverns and ordinaries. It provided a source for satire, whether of the dishonest apothecary, the puritanical citizen who frowned on tobacco, or the courtly gallant who divided his time between the ordinary, the tobacco-shop and Paul's Walk. The stage was also a means through which the playwrights could participate in the popular tobacco controversy. Also, there was a custom among playgoers which must have made it almost impossible for players and writers to ignore tobacco.

Paul Hentzner, a German lawyer who made a diary of his observations on a trip through England in 1598 recorded that "at these spectacles [the theatre and bear-baiting pits] and every where else, the English are constantly smoking the Nicotian weed which in America is called 'Tobaca'." It was the custom of the gallant to purchase a stool on stage and smoke his pipe there. Dekker in The Guls Hornbook (1608) tells his "students" that among

---

the advantages of taking a sixpenny stool on stage is
2 that he can readily get his match lighted. The Scorn-
ful Lady (1616), a play by Beaumont and Fletcher, makes
reference to gallants who "wear swords to reach fire at
a play" (I, ii, 52), and in their play, The Knight of
the Burning Pestle (ca. 1607), the Citizen's Wife, who
sits along with her husband on the stage, complains:
"this stinking tobacco kills men' would there were none
in England! (I,ii, 142-142).

The tobacco merchant was a popular conventional
careacter on stage. Jonson's Abel Drugger in the Alchemist
is probably the best known, but there are others such as
Vapour in Middleton's A Fair Quarrel. These characters
are the dupes of their customers and often the fools in
the play.

The Puritans might be jibed at, as in this
passage from Marston's The Dutch Curtezen (1605) where
a house-wife, Mrs. Mulligrub, remarks;

2 The Guls Hornbook and The Belman of London

3 The Works of Francis Beaumont and John Fletcher,

4 Elizabethan and Stuart Plays, ed. Charles R.
Baskerville, Virgil B. Heltzel and Arthur H. Nethercot
I could never endure this ungodly Tabacco, since one of our elders, assured me upon his knowledge Tabacco was not used in the Congregation of the family of love....(III)5

The gallant came in for the greatest display on stage as a tobacco-taker because of his immoderate use of tobacco. Captain Bobadill, "a Paul's man," in Jonson's Every Man in his Humor (1598) makes an impassioned speech about the marvels of tobacco, claiming that he has dined on tobacco alone for as many as twenty-one days, praising it as the antidote for all poisons and calling it "the most sovereign and precious weed that ever the earth tendered to the use of man." Cob, a water-carrier, replies that tobacco is fit only to choke a man and that:

There were foure dyed out of one house, last weeke, with taking of it, and two more the bell went for, yesternight; one of them (they say) will ne'er scape it: he voided a bushell of soot yesterday, upward, and downward. (III, V, 108-111)6

The most extended scene devoted to gallants and their tobacco is in Monsieur d'Olive, a play by Chapman dating from 1606, in which d'Olive, a courtier, is obliged to defend tobacco against the attacks of a Puritan, a weaver "purblind...with the Geneva spirit"

---


who maintained that it was:

...a pagan plant, a profane weed
And a most sinful smoke, that had no warrant
Out of the Word; invented, sure,
by Sathan.

He said it was a rag of popery,

(II, 1)

D'Olive's reply makes tobacco "that little shop of Nature, wherein her whole workmanship is abridg'd," and he defends smoking both as healthful, for it drives out ill vapours from the brain and "drawes down all bad Humours by the mouth," and as stimulating to the wits.

Tobacco was used also as stage business in these plays. There are various examples of characters smoking on stage, a device which must have added substantial realism to the play, especially when many in the audience would have been smoking also. The most spectacular use of this device is in Marston's What You Will (1607) where the business follows this stage direction:

Enter the Duke coupled with a Lady, two couples more with them, the men having tobacco pipes in their hands, the woemen sitt, they daunce a round. The Petition is delivered up by Randolfo the Duke lightes his tobacco pipe with it and goes out dancing.

---


5 Marston, Works, II, 244.
Beside these fairly conventional uses of tobacco on the stage, there are two unique cases where tobacco is personified on the stage and becomes an integral part of the play. The earliest is in an anonymous play Lingua; Or, The Combat of the Tongue, and the five senses for Superiority, which was printed in 1607. The play is set in Microcosmus, or the human body, and Lingua, the tongue, who is portrayed as a woman, along with her wily servant, Mendacio, tries, through a stratagem, to get herself included as a sixth sense in Microcosmus. The case is brought before a judge, and Olfactus (the sense of smell) presents, as part of his entourage, Tobacco:

apparelled in a taffeta mantle, his arms brown and naked, Buskins made of the peeling of osiers, his neck bare, hung with Indian leaves, his face brown, painted with blue stripes, in his nose swines' teeth, on his head a pointed wicker crown with tobacco-pipes set in it, plumes of tobacco leaves, led by two Indian boys naked, with tapers in their hands, tobacco-boxes and pipes lighted. (Stage direction, IV, iv.)

This "great and puissant God of Tobacco," who speaks only a Latinesque gibberish, is called by Olfactus "the mighty Emperor Tobacco, King of Trinidad, that, in being conquered, conquered all Europe, in making them pay tribute for their smoke." He is:

Son of the god Vulcan and Tellus, kin to the father of mirth, called Bacchus,...
Genius of all swaggerers, sweet ointment for sour teeth, adamant of company,...
and of so great deserts that, whoso is acquainted with him can hardly forsake him. (IV, iv.)

In the end, because of her trickery, and because she is the mother of all lies, Lingua is refused her request.

The other example of this personification of tobacco is in *The Masque of Flowers* which was presented by the Gentlemen of Gray's Inn in 1614 "being the last of the solemnities and magnificences which were performed at the marriage of the Right Honourable the Earl of Somerset and the Lady Frances, daughter of the Earl of Suffolk, Lord Chamberlain." It was dedicated in the printed version to Sir Francis Bacon, the dedication being signed by J.G., M.D., and T.B., who were probably the persons responsible for the play. The device of the masque is that the Sun appoints Spring and Winter to present the newly married couple with a pageant of various sports, and "more especially, that Winter for his part take knowledge of a certain challenge which had been lately sent and accepted between Silenus and Kawasha upon this point, that Wine was more worthy than Tobacco, and did more cheer and relieve the spirits of man. This to be tried at two weapons, at song and at dance..." (Preface). Kawasha was apparently an Indian god who was associated with tobacco.

---

After an introduction in which Winter and Spring announce the purpose of the masque, there follows the "Antick-Masque of the Song." Kawasha is costumed according to these directions:

...on his head a night-cap of red-cloth of gold, close to his skull, tied under his chin, two holes in top, out of which his ears appeared, hung with two great pendants; on the crown of his cap a chimney; a glass chain about his neck; his body and legs of olive-colour stuff, made close like skin; bases of tobacco-colour stuff cut like tobacco leaves, sprinkled with orceodure; in his hand an Indian bow-and-arrows.

He was preceded by a sergeant who carried on his shoulder "a great tobacco-pipe as big as a caliver" or small musket.

Both sides, Silenus and crew, in defence of Wine, and Kawasha and his supporters, exchange a series of mildly insulting verses or songs, but the debate is never settled, and because the masque is for a joyful occasion, both sides agree to stop bickering and dance off, singing together. In the "Antick-Masque of the Dance" which follows, the same characters take part, but there is none of the controversy between tobacco and wine.

While the significance of these references to tobacco might be lost on a modern-day audience viewing one of these plays, there can be little doubt that they

did add a note of immediacy which would have helped an early Seventeenth Century audience establish an identity with the plays.

I will mention here one other curious fact about tobacco on the Elizabethan stage. Shakespeare, in all his works, makes no reference to tobacco, nor even suggests that he is aware of it. Neither are there any outside clues as to what might account for this omission. Whether he smoked or not, whether he left tobacco out of his plays for political or aesthetic reasons, are unanswerable questions.
VI

The Tobacco Pamphlets

In this section, I will deal with the whole group of tobacco pamphlets. The first, *Tabacco*, which was almost certainly written by Anthony Chute, a protege of Gabriel Harvey, appeared in 1595. From then until 1620, there appeared another sixteen works on the subject. The subject matter varied from such down-to-earth topics as, *An Advice how to plant Tobacco in England* by the unknown author, T. C., to polemics against the weed such as John Deacon’s *Tobacco Tortured*, or, *the filthie fume of Tobacco refined: shewing all sorts of subjects, that the inward taking of Tobacco fumes, is very pernicious unto their bodies; too too profluous for many of their purses; and most pestiferous to the public State. Exemplified apperently by most fearfull effects.*

Generally speaking, these pamphlets were not written by men who have remained well known until today. The exceptions are King James, Joshua Sylvester, whose single tract on the subject was in verse, Barnaby Rich, and Richard Braithwaite.

However, the men who wrote these pamphlets were well acquainted with the other pamphlets, and often one
pamphlet would be written as a reply to another. Richard Braithwaite's *The Smoking Age, or The Man in the Mist* (1617) refers to the poem *Tobacco Battered* by Joshua Sylvester (1617), and includes as a sort of appendix a summary of Chute's *Tabaco*. The anonymous author of *A New and Short Defense of Tabacco* (1602) states that he has read "twoo severall Discourses lately putte downe by twoo singular exquisite learned Physitions, Con and Pro" which would likely be *Work for Chimny-sweepers* by H. J. which was entered at the stationers register 25 June, 1601 (contra) and *A Defense of Tabacco* with a friendly answer to the late printed book called *Worke for Chimny-sweepers* entered 4 January, 1602 (pro). John Deacon dedicated his book, *Tobacco Tortured*, to King James, who had made his position well known through his *Counterblaste*. This would point to a definite awareness in Londoners of the controversy and indicates the energy of the dispute.

The earlier pamphlets seem to be mainly of a medical nature. Anthony Chute's *Tabaco* is subtitled *The distinct and several opinions of the late and best Physitions that have written of the divers natures and qualities thereof*. The main part of the outside material he presents is from Monardes and Nicot. However, the book is generally based on Chute's own observations such as this one concerning times when one should use tobacco.

I would not that any should receive it at any time but when he find himself not well
disposed, or beeing well, suspects either that he hath surfaite, or something which he hath in his stomach, may make him ill. (pp. 10-11)

Or, replying to a comment by a London doctor that he had seen a man die of tobacco, this comment: "...I am truely resolved, that for that one which died, it hath saved threescore" (p. 20). He also passes on the misinformation that tobacco would cure syphilis:

They affirme that in France a man having a sore ulcer, or impostume, caused by the evil of Naples, that we call in English the French something, was immediately cured thereof. (pp. 44-45).

This pamphlet is the subject of one of the two scholarly articles on this field. Robert J. Kane, working from clues in the pamphlet, as well as remarks about the work and its author made by Thomas Nashe in two other pamphlets, Have with you to Saffron Walden, and Nashe's Lenten Stuff, confirms that the A. C. who wrote Tabaco was definitely Anthony Chute. Of the pamphlet itself, Kane says:

Chute's little cento, then, has a double title to distinction: it is the first treatise of its

1 (London, 1595), from a micro-film copy in the Assumption University of Windsor Library. An original is now in the Huntington Library, San Merino, California.

2 I have been unable to find whom the Italians held responsible for social diseases, a euphemism which Chute might have found useful for replacing "the French something."
kind in English literature, and it is probably the first in any literature to give proper importance to the custom of smoking. 3

The contemporary estimate of this work is indicated by the fact that Richard Braithwaite, as noted earlier, appended a summarized version of it to his own work because Tabaco was in demand but unavailable.

As to the place which Tabaco took in the developing controversy, it is hard to align it on either side. Chute was attempting to write a factual and informative treatise on a new and, to him, a tremendously important drug. At the same time, he informs us that he is a smoker and on reading the book, one gets the impression that either he simply did not follow his own rules for the taking of tobacco, or he was often "not well disposed" or expected to become that way from a "surfait." This pamphlet does, however, establish most of the arguments which were later used by those who defended tobacco from a medical viewpoint. Chiefly, he argues moderation in the use of tobacco, lists authorities, most of whom, such as Galen and Hippocrates, knew nothing of tobacco, and gives instruction for the various means of applying it as a medicament.

The first anti-tobacco pamphlet was published

pseudonymously by "Philaretes" entitled *Work for Chimny-sweepers: Or A Warning for Tobacconists, describing the pernicious use of Tobacco, no less pleasant than profitable for all sorts to reade*, with this encouraging note following: "Better be chokt with English hemp, than poisened with Indian Tobacco." Robert Kane has also dealt with the authorship of this work in another article, "Joseph Hall and work for Chimny-sweepers." There is a dedicatory poem in the work which is signed J. H. and from stylistic evidence Kane points out that it might well have been written by Joseph Hall. As to the authorship of the whole, however, he points out that while Hall sided with the anti-tobacco faction in his *The Discovery of a New World* and other works, there is not sufficient evidence to identify "Philaretes" with Hall.

The pamphlet sets out eight arguments against the use of tobacco, the majority of which are on a medical basis. For example, the third argument explains that tobacco can be injurious to health because "it is experimented and tryed to be a most strong and violent purge," (an effect which many have experienced after their first cigar).

Or, the fourth argument explaining that:

---

4 *MLA, LI (1936), 407-413.*
...it withereth and drieth up natural
moisture in our bodies, thereby
causing sterility and barrenesse:
In which respect it seemeth an enemy
to the continuance and propagation
of mankind.

But not all the arguments were scientific. The seventh
is particularly interesting because it was further em-
ployed by other anti-tobaccoists, including King James.
It runs, "the first author and finder thereof was the
Devil, and the first practisers of the same were Devil's
Priests, and therefore not to be used by Christians."

In reply to this diatribe on the weed, there
appeared anonymously two defenses of tobacco only a few
months later. The most pointed was A Defense of Tobacco;
with a friendly answer to the late printed book called
Worke for Chimney-Sweepers. The author, who mentions
that he does not know who wrote Work for Chimney-Sweepers,
takes the familiar stand of moderation. Referring to the
author of Work, he says:

If his meaning be, onely to condemne
the abuse of Tabacco: in that I am
ready to take his part, and will most
willingly joyne with him hand and hand:
but yet so, as I do think, that a good
thing should be no more mislikd, for
the abuse thereof. (Agv)

Then, proceeding like Chute before him and others after,

(London, 1602), From a micro-film copy in the
Assumption University of Windsor Library. An original
is now in the Huntington Library, San Merino, California.
he defends the use of tobacco as a curative. His method is suggested by the pamphlet he is attacking. As it was laid out as a series of statements or arguments, so he replies by confuting them one by one, often turning the first author's authorities against him by a more rational interpretation. In the work, the argument was brought forth that smoking would blacken a smoker's brain, to which the defender replies:

As for the reason that you bring, to prove Tobacco, to leave in our braine, a black, swarte, sootish tincture, because it doth all to be-blacke the Pipe wherein it is taken: O Lord, it is very weak reason.

quite sensibly, he suggests that one only has to look into the mouth and throat of a smoker to disprove the other's claim.

The other defense written that year was A New and Short Defense of Tobacco which is one of the most entertaining of these pamphlets. The author proceeds in his defense of tobacco by putting his argument into a plan based on the mechanics of scholastic philosophy using charts and tables. He mentions that while he was a student at Oxford, he had become deathly ill and credits tobacco with returning him to health. Having thus experienced the medicinal properties of this herb, he says that, since then, he has used tobacco in moderation

(London, 1602). From a micro-film copy in the Assumption University of Windsor Library. An original is now in the Huntington Library, San Merino, California.
as a means of keeping fit. He praises it as the greatest of simples and makes this comment about those who use tobacco immoderately.

Wherefore vigilant circumspection must be had, that Tobacco be handled considerately and respectively, not, phanatically, phantastically, insolently, excessively, and wantonly, as some humorous pragmaticall, Iocodocians (Vaine and vaser) use to doe, whose noses are like unto Mount Aetna, their mouthes and Lippes (as it were) th'out-brust of his Hellish smoeke, flying, and flashing about their faces with every Hufe, Snuffe, and Puffe, spitting out their owne folly, to the great offence of many. (Bgv)

He breaks down tobacco-taking into various categories and under "Uses" he finds these various applications.

(Reforme and rectifie what is emisse.
(Provoke vomite

For it is profitable to (upwards.Purge by
(seige, humours
(of any combination.
(Cure wounds of
(every condition.

For the first, it should be smoked; for the second, chewed, with four or five drops of the juice "drilled into the stomacke;" for the third, steeped in wine; and for the last, used in the form of ashes. He applies the same method to other aspects of the taking of tobacco. He also adds, that for smoking, "one grain at the least of oile of Anniseedes" be added to the tobacco, presumably to improve the taste. He thus aligns himself with those who favoured the use of tobacco as a medicine.
to be taken carefully and judiciously.

After a lapse of about two years, there was published, again anonymously, what has become the most famous of the tobacco pamphlets. It was entitled, *A Counter-Blaste to Tobacco*, and, although its author did not acknowledge it until 1616, his subjects realized soon after its first appearance that it was written by the King. His attitude toward the weed was public knowledge. In a letter to Sir Amias Paulet tentatively dated in December of 1603, the year of James's accession, Sir John Harington reported an audience he had had with the King. He says:

> His majesty muche askede concerninge my opinion of the new weede tobacco, and said "it woud, by its use, infuse ill qualities on the braine, and that no learnede man ought to taste it, and wishede it forbidden."

Then, in October of 1604, James issued his *Commissio Pro Tabacco*, which not only publicly stated his opinion on tobacco, but raised the import duty to such an extent as he thought would effectively discourage smoking in England. Thus, the pamphleteer who wrote of tobacco as follows, was soon identified with the monarch.

> A custome lothsome to the eye, hatefull to the nose, harmefull to the braine, dangerous to the Lungs, and in the blacke

---

James’s pamphlet is interesting not only because of its author’s rank, but also because it was the first of the tobacco pamphlets which made no real effort to deal with tobacco in medical terminology. To be sure, James does discuss the medical claims held out for tobacco, but primarily his is an emotional and quite unrestrained polemic against one of Satan’s devices to lure men down hellish paths. Mainly, he argued that tobacco was a fad, an expensive waste of time which could bear no good because it was introduced from a nation of heathens.

And now good Countrey men let us (I pray you) consider, what honour or policie can move us to imitate the barbarious and beastly maners of the wilde, godlesse, and slavish Indians, especially in so vile and stink-a custome?...Why doe we not as well imitate them in walking naked as they doe? in preferring glasses, feathers, and such toys to golde and precious stones, as they do? yea why do we not denie God and adore the Devill, as they doe? (12-13)

James does seem to have fairly well understood tobacco and its effects as well as the medical nonsense put forward by the earlier writers. Not without humor he says of the power which tobacco was supposed to have as a cure for the pox:

As for curing of the pockes, it serves

8

James I, Counter-Blaste, p. 32.
for that use but among the poockie Indian
slaves. Here in England it is refined,
and will not deigne to cure here any
other then cleanly and gentlemanly dis-
seases. Omnipotent power of Tabacco. (p. 25)

He recognized also that tobacco was habit form-
ing explaining, correctly, that once the body becomes
accustomed to it, as to other things such as alcohol
and narcotics, its absence can cause a severe react-
ion. He also mentions a curious attribute of tobacco
to which I find no other allusion: that tobacco smoke
had power to exorcise devils, an idea which he rejects,
 remarking that if it did, it would "serve as a precious
Relicke, both for the superstitious Priests, and the
insolent Puritaines, to cast out devills withall." (p. 25).
However, his final tirade against tobacco seems to
exemplify best the nature of his dislike for tobacco.

Moreover, which is a great iniquitie, and
against all humanitie, the husband shall
not bee ashamed, to reduce thereby his
delicate, wholesome, and cleane complexion-
ed wife, to that extremetie, that either shee must also corrupt her sweete breath
therewith, or else resolve to live in a
perpetuall stinking torment. (pp. 31-32)

While this does give an indication of James's attitude
toward women, it also demonstrates that his enmity for
tobacco arose from fear of it as a social evil. He may
have been influenced on this particular point when he
saw women smoking, for as I have indicated earlier,
apparently women (at least, those women who had the
freedom to do so), on the introduction of tobacco, were only a puff away from the men in indulging in the new national vice.

To pass a final comment on this royal invective, it is the most readable of the tobacco pamphlets, while being at the same time one of the least typical of them. It is interesting because it is so strongly biased and emotional; and for these same reasons it is atypical. The majority of those who wrote against the use of tobacco complained because it was, to them, being wrongly used. They seem to have been mostly interested in correcting the abuse so that they might get the best use of a new herb. Their interest was more scientific, more questioning, than James's view, which was concerned almost completely with the ethical and moral aspects of smoking. In essence, he wrote what must be one of the first temperance pamphlets in the English language, a forerunner to the works of the Anti-Saloon League.

After the publication of James's work, the scene was quiet, at least in terms of recorded output, until 1610, when Edmund Gardiner, a physician and a Catholic, who had been imprisoned by the Court of King's Bench for reasons which I have not been able to unearth published his The Triall of Tabacco. This work was intended

---

(London, 1610) From a micro-slim copy in the Assumption University of Windsor Library. An original is now in the Huntington Library, San Marino, California.
to be a most scientific and objective study of the herb in a distinct and plain style, and was not to be "too partial" as were the works of those others he had read on the subject. He gives a list of seventy-five different authors whom he has cited in his book, which ran to one hundred and sixteen pages. Some of these are quoted as authority on tobacco or medicine, but the most because they provided the author with a ready store of aphorisms. In the list there are such diverse names as Homer, Hesiod, Aristotle, Paracelsus, Terence, Martial, Albertus Magnus, Chaucer, and William Camden. Of writers who say much about tobacco he lists Monardes, Richard Hakluyt, and John Gerard, a Londoner who wrote, in 1597, a very famous English Herbal. He also mentions both Work for Chimney-sweepers and the reply, A Defense of Tobacco, and notes that he is not being compelled to write his work as the author of the Defense had said he was; Gardiner will take the more difficult path and follow a middle way between both extremes.

Before discussing the content of the pamphlet, it is worth noting that the author mentions having made several attempts to grow tobacco and gives advice for its cultivation, so it would seem that he had considerable experience with the plant. As an aside, tobacco grown in England has never been popular for its smoking qualities. This has kept the England dependent on col-
onial and foreign sources of supply, and in James's
time, caused him much embarrassment because the English
insisted on buying Spanish tobacco which was especially
favoured although extremely expensive.

It is evident from the first few pages of this
pamphlet, The Trial of Tobacco, that the author is not
particularly impressed with the curative powers of toba­
cco when taken as smoke. It would have its greatest
effect when taken in the form of a syrup, which must
have been in effect and taste not unlike the juice which
forms from masticating a quid of "Bull Durham." Of smok­
ers he says:

Some use to drink Tobacco (as it is
tearmed) for wantonnes, or rather custom,
and cannot forbear it, no, not in the
midst of their dinner or supper: which
kind of taking is unholome, and very
dangerous, if not slovenly; although
to take it seldom, and that physically
may do some good, and is to be tolerated.

(p. 9)

But:

The weight of four ounces of the juice
of Tobacco being drunke, purgeth bothe
upwards and downwards, and procureth
after a long and sound sleep. (p. 20)

Therefore, it seems quite logical that a doctor, in an
age when voiding the system was the first step in most
cures, would favour the latter; it would take an as­
tronomical amount of smoke to purge an accustomed smok­
er and then it would probably not act downwards.

To support his position towards tobacco, he
gives several recipes for various tobacco concoctions, one of which, for instance, "is good for an old pain in the head and sharpeneth the eye-sight."

The next pamphlet on tobacco came out the following year, 1611, and was entitled, *The Perfuming of Tobacco, and the Great Abuse Committed in it*. Although I have been unable to consult this work, or find description of it in secondary sources, I think it safe to presume that it was a smoker's complaint against those tobacco-merchants mentioned in an earlier chapter, who adulterated their merchandise. Following this came *Nepenthes* by William Barclay, in 1614, which is presented in a following chapter.

The year 1615 saw the publication of *An Advice how to plant Tobacco in England*, by T. C., another work to which I have not had access. Considering that domestic tobacco never won popularity in England, we might here assume that it was not a very good advice.

The next pamphlet was *Tobacco Tortured*, written in 1616 by John Deacon, a gentleman whose fame has not been preserved by the *Dictionary of National Biography*, but whom, from his style, I would gather to have had training for the ministry. In keeping with his title, Deacon dedicated his work to King James, but I have been unable to find whether it brought him any preferment. The complete title suggests the tone of what is to follow
in the book, which runs to 198 pages.

Tobacco Tortured, or, the filthie Fume of Tobacco refined; shewing all sorts of subjects, that the inward taking of Tobacco fumes is very pernicious unto their bodies; too too profluous for many of their purses; and most pestiferous to the public state. Exemplified apparently by most fearfull affects: more especially, from their treacherous projects about the Gunpowder Treason; from their rebellious attempts of late about their preposterous desparing of certaine Inclosures: as also, from sundry other of their prodigious practises.\textsuperscript{11}

The book is written in the form of a dialogue between two imaginary gentlemen, Capnistus and Hydrophorus, one on either side of the tobacco controversy, and, as well as discussing the weed, they also dwell at length on wine. The results in both cases are that the one who indulges in these vices is logically convinced of his error and resolves to amend his ways. The writing is by far the most florid of that in any of these pamphlets. While the style tends to verbosity, it is nonetheless vivid and lively, and where the author overreaches himself, it can be highly amusing. Following a custom seen in other pamphlets, Deacon larded his work with references from Hebrew (the Bible being his principle source), Greek, Latin, and even English. He used Aristotle, Galen, and Hippocrates to substantiate the

\textsuperscript{11}(London, 1616), From a micro-film copy in the Assumption University of Windsor Library. An original is now in the Huntington Library, San Merino, California.
Scriptures. He gives a lengthy account of the derivation of the word tobacco, but this is largely a compilation and repetition of other writers. He also repeats the story from Frampton's translation of Monardes, of the manner in which the Indians of Florida used tobacco to induce a fainting spell which was supposed to conjure up oracular visions.

He goes on to discuss the expense of tobacco, saying tobacco ran at least 40s. per pound. From this he figures that a tinker would spend 3s. 4d. per week for smoke. Then to drive home the evils of smoking, Deacon draws verbal pictures of a wife and son pleading with their sole support who has been victimized by nicotine. Here is an excerpt from the boy's lament:

Harke Dad, thou wert wont (when thou wentst to the Faires) to buy thy best boy, fine knacks, fine boxes, fine rattles, a fine feather, a fine gilden dagger, and a fine golden hobbie-horse; wert thou not, Dad? And wilt thou now let me thy white-headed boy runne barefoote and barelegged without hose and shooes? Why harke, Dad, hath the fire of Tobacco filched thy purse? Hath filthie Tobacco enforced all thy golden angels to creepe covertly out of thy coffers into thy profluvious pouch, and from thence to flie forth all about? (p. 160)

This expresses a typical Jamesian attitude toward tobacco—no quarter for this pernicious vice. It is by far the longest of the tobacco pamphlets, and one of the most irate in its denunciation of the weed, but, perhaps because of its tone of righteous indignation, it is, though long, still en-
tertaining and amusing.

As had been 1602, 1617, the year after Deacon's pamphlet, was a prolific season for writers on tobacco. Three pamphlets, all by men whose names will be well-known to students of Seventeenth Century literature, came out in that year. One, by Joshua Sylvester, who is remembered for his translations of the French poet, du Bartas, was written in verse. The complete title of this poem runs: Tobacco battered: and the Pipes shattered (About their Ears that idly Idolize so base and barbarous a Weed; or at leastwise over-love so loathsome a vanity.) by a Volley of holy Shot thundered from Mount Helecon. While I have been unable to read this in its entirety, a lengthy passage quoted in Edward Arber's reprint of James's Counter-Blaste gives sufficient testimony as to the outlook of the entire work. A statement that Sylvester's translations demonstrate "a dogmatic and uncompromising Puritanic spirit" might well be applied here. Of more significance to the subject of pamphlets, if not to the matter of invective against tobacco, are the two other pamphlets of that year. Barnaby Rich is probably most famous for his Farewell to the Militarie Profession (1581), which is a main source for Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. He also published in 1617

12 The OBEH dates this work 1617. Edward Arber in his edition of the Counter-Blaste dates it 1614.

(the year of his death) a pamphlet entitled *The Irish Hubbub or, the English Hue and Crie*. Briefly pursuing the base conditions, and most notorious offences of this vile, vain, and wicked age. The most notorious offence was smoking. Although it was printed for sale in London, the book was written in Dublin. Only eleven of the book's fifty-six pages are specifically devoted to tobacco, but it is a subject of contention throughout this work of general indignation. Although willing, as were most others, to admit that tobacco had medicinal value, he comments:

> But this I think, that the greatest number doth take Tobacco more for matter of custome, then for matter of maladie. (p. 42)

As for the situation of the wife of a smoker, he suggests:

> ...that a woman were as good to thrust her nose into a close stoole, as to smell the unsavoury sent of her husbands stinking breath. (p. 32)

And of smoking in general:

> There needes no other probation but this: It is smoake, and I never heard that smoake was good for any thing, unlesse to drye redde herrings. (p. 45)

Another of Rich's pungent remarks comments on the use of tobacco as a drug.

> I will not say but that Tobacco may be

---

(London, 1617) From a micro-film in the Assumption University of Windsor Library. An original is now in the Huntington Library, San Merino, California.
medicinable for some diseases and men that have infirmities (if they finde ease in it) may take and use it as an Apothecaries Drugge: but if all be diseased that doth use to take Tobacco, God helpe England, it is wonderfully infected, and his majestie hath but a few subjects that be heathfull in his whole dominions. (p. 46)

It is in this pamphlet that Rich makes his computation that £319, 375 were spent yearly on smoke.

This pamphlet may be included, along with the Counter-blaste and Tobacco Tortured, among those which deal with tobacco chiefly as a social evil and not as an herb which was being either properly or improperly used.

The other pamphlet of 1617, by Richard Braithwaite, was written in two sections; one dealing with drinking, the other with smoking. The section on tobacco was entitled, The Smoking Age, or The man in the mist: with the life and death of Tobacco, and occupied pages 168 to 199 of the whole. He mentions having reed Sylvester’s poem Tobacco Battered, and uses the term Nepenthes to refer to tobacco, suggesting that he may have also been acquainted with Barclay’s work. He also refers to Captain Whiffe, a character in Jonson’s Every Man out of his Humour.

--

It might also be noted that, along with wine and tobacco, he includes the rapacy as another evil which was being inflicted upon England.

(London, 1617) From a micro-film copy in the Assumption University of Windsor Library. An original is now in the Huntington Library, San Marino, California.
The Smoking Age is wordy, repetitious, and adds almost nothing new to the tobacco controversy. The language is particularly devoid of that colour which heightens the other works. The only good bon-mot seems to be this epigram on tobacco: "The Pox and Piles shall reverence thee." (p. 147). However, it is one of the last of these pamphlets and does present a good summation of the whole issue. Until recently, one of its main importances lay in the fact that Braithwaite included a condensation of Chute's early pamphlet, Tabacco, which was even then very scarce. In fact, for some time Chute's work was only known through this later work; Arber, in 1835, seems only to have been aware that a work on tobacco was licensed to be printed in 1595. Briefly put, Braithwaite's position was quite standard; tobacco should be a medicine, not a pleasure.

This takes us through at least the first fifty years that tobacco was known in England. There are four more items listed in the Cambridge Bibliography under the classification of "Tobacco Pamphlets"; one by T. Brentnor entitled Opiologia (1618), a medical book covering the opiates, among which he included tobacco; one by Edward Bennett, A Treatise Touching the Inconveniences that Tobacco hath brought into this land (c. 1620); another by Tobias Venner, A Briefe and Accurate Treatise concerning the Taking of the Fume of Tobacco (1621); and
a poem, in Latin, by Raphael Thorius, *Hymnus Tabaci* (1626). However, I have not been able to secure copies of these, and I feel that I have sufficiently covered the field for my purposes here.

There are left only a few minor facets of tobacco in English Literature to be covered. Aside from pamphlets devoted solely or extensively to tobacco, it was also used as a reference by other prose writers. Thomas Nashe often used illustrations involving tobacco in his pamphlets. Anthony Chute was a protégé of Gabriel Harvey, who has a disastrous literary clash with Nashe. In one of his pamphlets aimed at Harvey, Nashe leveled this remark at Chute. Referring to various subjects and styles chosen by writers in the Harvey clique, Nashe says: "A seventh settes a Tobacco pipe in stead of a trumpet to his mouth, and of that divine drugge, proclaimeth miracles." There are also notable references to tobacco by the same author in *Pierce Penniless* and *Have with You to Saffron-Walden*.

Thomas Middleton also made significant reference to tobacco in his pamphlet, *The Blacke Rod* (1604) in the section which he entitled, "The last will and testament of Lawrence Lucifer, the old wealthy bachelor of Limbo, alias Dick Devil-barn, the griping farmer of Kent." One

---

of Lucifer's heirs is "Barnaby Burning-glass, Arch-tobacco-taker of England" whom I think might be Barnaby Rich. Although Rich's later pamphlets condemn tobacco, he might have been at that time a smoker, or Middleton may be accusing Rich of hypocrisy, denouncing tobacco while at the same time indulging in it. He says:

I am not a little proud...that you dance after my pipe so long, and for all counterblasts, and tobacco-Nashes (which some call railers), you are not blown away, nor your fiery thirst quenched with the small penny-ale of their contradictions, but still suck that dung of damnation with a long nipple, still burning that rare Phoenix of Phlegethon, tobacco, that from her ashes, burned and knocked out, may rise another pipeful.

Thus, he bequeathes Barnaby, among other things, "a brain well sooted, where the muses hang up in the smoke like red herrings" and lungs "as smooth as jet, and just of the same colour, that when thou art closed in thy grave, the worms may consumed with them, and take them for black puddings."

Tobacco was also a topic chosen by writers of "Theophrastian characters." In the works of John Webster, there is a character of "A Purveyor of Tobacco." As "Sir John Falstaff robb'd with a bottle of Sacke; so doth hee take mens purses, with a wicked roule of Tob-

---

acco at his girdle." Webster also makes this remark about the tobacco seller, which has reference to James:

Hee does not love God, because God loves plaine dealing; and tis a question, whether he loves the King, because the King loves no Tobacco.19

Of a later date, 1626, there are descriptions of both a "taverne" and a "tobacco-seller" in John Earle's Microcosmographie. Concerning the tobacco-seller:

His shop is the rendezvous of spitting, where men dialogue with their noses, and their communication is smoke. It is the place onely where Spaine is commend'd, and prefer'd before England it selfe.20

There are also occasional mentions of tobacco in better Elizabethan poetry. Edmund Spenser made this reference to tobacco in The Fairie Queene:

Into the woods thenceforth in hast she went, To seake for hearbes, that mote him remedy; For she of hearbes had great itendement, Taught of the Nymph, which from her infancy Her nourced in trew Nobility: There, whether it divine Tobacco were, Or Panaean, or Polygony.

19 Characters, p. 44, in The Complete Works of John Webster, ed. F. L. Lucas (London, 1927), Vol. IV. These characters of Webster were at first attributed to Sir Thomas Overbury, and printed in a collection of his Characters in 1615. Lucas gives substantial proof, however, that the characters added to this edition of Overbury (the sixth) were by Webster.

She found, and brought it to her patient deare
Who al this while lay bleeding out his hart-bloud neare.
(Book III, stanza xxxii)21

John Donne, in his Satire One, refers to the smokers who inhabited Paul's Walk.

...we went, till one (which did excel 'Th Indians in drinking his Tobacco well) Met us; they talk'd; I whispered, Let us go; 'T may be you smell him not; truly I do;22

The above completes my survey of tobacco in English Literature. There is little that can be said for the influence of tobacco in any "literary" sense, but it did give rise to a unique body of literature in the "Tobacco Pamphlets," and, as a new and novel form of everyday activity, it did provide an interesting subject for playwrights and poets. Because of its uniqueness, tobacco provides an excellent insight into the nature of the people of this perhaps most important age of English culture. Thus tobacco remains not only a curious and delightful subject for the modern reader, but also an important help in aiding our understanding of these developers of our tradition.


Introduction to Nepenthes

The following section presents, as an illustration to the foregoing, and, I hope, as an interesting piece of literature in itself, an edition of William Barclay's *Nepenthes, or, The Vertues of Tobacco*, which was added to the corpus of early tobacco literature in 1614. My reasons for editing this particular pamphlet were partly its length, and partly because it is highly typical of the tobacco pamphlets. It was written by an educated man: its tone is civil, witty, and, in Renaissance fashion, reasonable and well-balanced. Its style, if to a degree pedantic, is still entertaining. To any question about it having been written in Scotland, instead of London, the center of the dispute, I reply that it not only well exemplifies the controversy, but illustrates the degree to which the controversy had covered the British Isles. Also, while on the one hand the author was well acquainted with his topic, on the other, his distance from the center may have improved his perspective of the subject.

Barclay (1570-1630) was born in Scotland, the younger brother of Sir Patrick Barclay of Towis. He took his degrees of Master of Arts and Doctor of Medicine at
the University of Louvain, after which he became a professor of humanity at the University of Paris. Following this, he returned for a time to practise medicine in Scotland, probably the period during which he wrote this book, and then went back to Nantes in France to teach medicine. His other works were mainly medical books in Latin although he wrote some journalistic works dealing with the city of Aberdeen.

The pamphlet most obviously illustrates the physicians' viewpoint on tobacco. It is concerned with various ways in which tobacco may be used as a medicine, ways in which it acts upon the body, and the results it will produce. But, as well as this, his pamphlet shows a decided urbanity coupled with a pleasant wit, which aims the work not at the physician but at the man-about-town who was most likely to be interested in his tobacco as a pleasure. Perhaps he would hold up this and similar pamphlets as proof that tobacco was no bad habit, not one of Satan's many traps to catch the unwary Puritan, but a healthful commodity with which man had never before been privileged.

In preparing this edition I have tried to keep both the spelling and punctuation exactly as they appeared in the original. Much of the interest in reading

---

s.v. Dictionary of National Biography.
this work comes in seeing how various words, many not often met with by the student, have changed in over three centuries, and how inconsistent was the Elizabethan spelling. Wherever possible, I have tried to gloss words which are unknown to the modern reader, but there are cases where certain words remain also unknown to me. This has been especially so with many of the herbs mentioned by Barclay. I have also attempted to clarify any references which Barclay used but have vanished from our modern stock of allusions. In the original, there were many words printed in italics, but because this practise did not influence the sense of the pamphlet, I have refrained from indicating these italicized words in my text.
NEPENTHES,

OR

THE VERTUES

OF TABACCO

BY

William Barclay Mr. of Art, and

Doctor of Physicke.

Edinburgh,

Printed by Andro Hart, and are to be sold at his shop on the North side of the high street, a little beneath the Crosse. Anno. Dom. 1614.
A merie Epistle of the Author to the Printer

Good Master Hart, I have sent you here a parasitical Pamphlet, which I am sure, will be as farre ben at every banket as Gnatho himselfe or Pseudolus. It will be a meet piece for Tipplers at Tavernes, and for Pedlars to helpe away with their rotten Tabacco. So that by this worke, I feare I shall be better loved amongst fine scoalers then famous schollers. But if I find favour in this Essay, I shal send you shortly Godwilling a scholastical subject, and a curious little worke: fit onely for those which aspire to the top of Pindus. The one wil bring to your shop the common sort of people, the other the most learned. I deliver this Scottish broode unto you, Per aesse et libram, make it your owne if you thinke it worthie, and esteeme me so long as I live also.

Your owne from my heart

W. Barclay Dott. Med.

1 Conspicuous

2 Gnatho was the parasite in Terence's Eunuchus. Pseudolus was a similar character in a play of the same name by Pleatus.

3 A mountain chain which separated Epirus and Thessaly in Ancient Greece.

4 "Through counters and a Balance" meaning "For your judgement."
To The Right Worshipfull Patricke Barclay
sonne and heire to Sr. Patricke Barclay of Tolly Knight
William Barclay his uncle D.M. wisheth health and happinesse.

Verie worshipfull and my deare Nephew, I cannot
but I must summond you, the processe beeing in matter of
Tabacco, as a witnesse to testifie the worth thereof, and
since you are charged, the custome requireth that you
have a just copie of the Libell, which I present heere
unto you, not so much that you may depose what you know
of the vertues thereof, as that you may learne by this
discourse to continue with discretion in the practise of
this precious Plant, to the ende you may eschew by pre-
cepts of Art the dulefull heritage of a naturall and pat-
ernell disease, and that you may blisse the house of your
nativitie with a long, holie and wholesome life, and that
house feele some consolation by the counsell and care of
him who beeing a bough of that old and unfading tree,
shal endeoure to bring foorth such fruit as may both
profite and pleasure all the branches and buddes there-
of, and you before all as the principall stocke, which
I wish may live longer than many long living Oakes, to
the ornament of our race, and the comfort of

Your most affectionat and most serviable
Uncle W. Barclay Doctor of
Medicine.
NEPENTHES, or The Vertues of Tabacco by
William Barcley D. of Medicine and Master of Art.

Hercules to obey the commandement and will of Juno, busied himselfe to overthrow the most famous monsters of his time, his Armes were a bagge and a club. A most worthie Ladie, and, if I durst say so, the very Juno of our Ile hath commanded me to destroy some monstrous Diseases, so that to imitate the most chivalrous Chiftan of the worlde, I have armed my selfe with a boxe for his bagge, and a pipe for his club; a boxe to conserve my Tabacco, and a pipe to use it, by those two Godwilling, to overcome many maladies. If the hostes of such Diseases doe not betray my endevoures to their hating and hated guests by not using or abusing my weapons. But before I enter in the list, I must whet as it were my wits with these two points, First why doe I treat of a matter so often handled by so many, so odious to Princes, so pernicious to sundrie, and so costly to all?

Secondly why doe I as another Clodius reveale mysteria bona Deae, and prophane the secrets of Physicke? I answere that a good master is not the worse to be main­tained by many: and Plus vident oculi quam oculus. As

5 A reference the James I and his Counterbleaste.

6 Publius Clodius, in female disguise, broke in upon the worship of an archeic deity named Bona Dea, whose rites were forbidden to men.

7 More is seen by two eyes than by one eye.
concerning the hatred of Princes, one mans meate is another mans poyson. The wine prince of liquors hateth vehemently colworts, and yet beere, aile, sider water, oyle, honey, and all other liquors doe well agree with colworts. The king of France drinketh never Orleans wine notwithstanding his subjects do love it well.

I know sundrie men that have such Antipathie with butter that they dare not smell it. It hath beene pernicious to sundrie I grant it, so hath wine, so hath bread, so hath gold, so hath land, and what so wholesome thing is that cannot be turned to abuse? If it be costly use the lesse of it. What? is not Rheubarbe coastly? is not Muske coastly? is not Ambergreese coastly? as touching the second point of my revealing this secret of Physicke, I answere, I meane but to reforme the harms which proceedeth of the abuse, and to shew to my countrey men that I am more willing to pleasure them then to profite my selfe, neither did I sweare to conceale that point when in a robe of purpure I wedded the metamorphosed Daphne. It resteth now to unfold what moved me to entitle this treatise Nepentes, because it hath

---

8 Purple

9 i.e. donned a wreath of bay-leaf, or took his doctorate.

10 QED "A drug of Egyptian origin mentioned in the Odyssey as capable of banishing grief or trouble from the mind."
a certaine mellifluous delicacie, which deliteth the senses, and spirits of man with a mindful oblivion, insomuch that it maketh and induceth... the forgetting of all sorrowes and miseries. And there is such hostilitie betwene it and melancholie, that it is the only medicament in the world ordained by nature to entertaine good companie: insomuch that it worketh never so well, as when it is given from man to man, as a pledge of friendshipe and amitie.

The countrey which God hath honoured and blessed with this happie and holy herbe, doth call it in their native language Petum, the Spaniards, who have given it the right of naturalitie, in their soyle terme it Tabacco, the Frenchmen which have received it in their countrey as in a colonie call it Nicotian, in this our Ile of Britaine, as in all other maritime parts, we use the Spanish name of Tabacco. But esteeming it worthie of a more loftie name, I have chosen for gossip the feire and famous Helena, and given to her the honour to name this most profitable plant Nepenthes.

Albeit this herbe disdaines not to be nourished in many Gardens in Spaine, in Italie, in France, Flandres, Germanie and Britaine, yet nevertheless only that which is fostred in India, and brought home by Mariners and Traffiquers is to be used, as after you shall heare the

I have omitted a Greek quotation which was partly illegible in my copy. This passage is approximately translated in the words which follow in the text.
reason is.

Non omnis fert omnia tellus.

But avarice and greediness of gain have moved the Merchants to apparell some European plants with Indian coats, and to enstall them in shops as righteous and legittime Tobacco. Some others have tobacco from Florida indeed, but because either it is exhausted of spiritualitie, or the radicall humor is spent, and wasted, or it hath gotten moysture by the way, or it hath bene dried for expedition in the Sunne, or carried too negligently, they sophisticate and ferde the same in sundrie sortes with blacke spice, Galanga, aqua vite, Spanish wine, Anise feedes, oyle of Spicke and such like.

So that the most fine, best, and purest is that which is brought to Europe in leaves, and not rolled in puddings, as the English Navigators first brought home.

The finest Tabacco is that which pearceth quickly the odorat with a sharpe aromaticke smell, and tickleth the tongue with acrimonie, not unpleasant to the taste, from whence that which draweth most water is most vertuous, whether the substance of it be chewed in the mouth, or the smoake of it received, Skillie tasters of wine, Bacchus butlers, know the wine

---

12

Every land does not produce all commodities.

13


14

Odorat-Nose?
Odore, sapore, colore.

So they which traffique dayly with Tabacco doe know it by these same three senses. In loose there is nothing which doth not serve either for meat or medicine, no not so much as the doung; But in Tabacco there is nothing which is not medicin, the root, the stalke, the leaves, the seeds, the smoake, the ashes, and to be more particular, Tabacco may serve for the use of man either greene or dry, of greene Tabacco may be made Syrups, waters, oyles, ungueants, plasters, or the leafe of it selfe, may bee used mortified at the fire to cure the asthma, or shortnesse of breath, dissolve obstructions, heale the olde cough, burning ulcers, wounds, migrain, Colicke, suffocation of the mother: and many other diseases, yea almost all diseases. If the Romanes durst have wanted so many yeares the helps of Physick, using for all diseases only Colwoorts. Truelie I think the Romans might want now all Physicians eternally, if they knew the vertue of Tabacco, seeing the spring of all their diseases is defluxions and catharses for which the only antidot is Tabacco. I intreat here the Lector of this treatise, to have me excused if I do not set down in special the forme and maner to prepare

15 Odor, taste, and colour.

16 Hysteria

17 Reader
such remedies of green Tabacco, as I have mentioned, for I wold wish to do with Tabacco as Aristotles did with his Physicks, for he wrot to his scholler Alexander, that he had published and not published his physicall Philosophie: So I must assay to say, that I have reveal-ed and not revealed the quintessence of Tabacco. As con-cerning the dry Tabacco, it may be used in infusion, in decoction, in substance, in smoke, in salt. Touching the infusion and decoction, because they are as dangerous and more, than Eelleborus albus, or antimonium, I will forbeare to particularize, remitting the practise of that part to the presence of some prudent Physician, except it be in some desperat case of unknown poysen. As for Tabacco in substance holden in the mouth, as an apophlegmatisme, or medicin to draw fleame out of the head by the mouth, I avow it to be one of the best and surest remedies in the world against Paralisie, epilep-sie or apoplexie, that is, the falling ill, and Vertigo Idiopathica, the passion of dizzines in the head by wind, that ever was found out. These are foure of the most incurable diseases that besiege the braine of man: for understanding of the which care I must remember the Lector, that since the dayes of Hippocrates, and in his dayes there have bene invented five sundrie sorts of evacuations to voyde this our body of filthy corruption

---

18 White hellebore.

19 Phlegm.
whereof it is the continual harbinguer, that is phlebotomie, vomition purging by the stool, by urins and by sweating. Now in the latter dayes hath beene invent-ed a sixt way or maner of purging, which is also by the mouth, not vomiting, but spitting: The onely medicament which was wont to procure such spitting, or slaveringe, was Hydrargyrum, quick-e-silver: but now of newe is found out this divine Tabacco, which if it be rightly used, is a soveraigne helpe, and a present purgation, and approoved preservative against the foresaid diseases, as also against Arthritis, the gowt, Lithiasis, or stone in reines or bledder, and Hydropisie. But because it is said that Tabacco and Hydrargyrum, worke both after one sort, It shall not be amisse to speake somewhat of the one and the other: First, there is no vegetall in the world, hath such affinitie with any minerall, as hath Tabacco with Mercure, or quick-e-silver, for as Mercure purgeth, above and under, being taken at the mouth, so doth Tabacco, and as Mercure being applyed exteriorlie, purgeth all the body by slaveringe, so doeth Tabacco being holden in the mouth. As the best Physicians, Philosophers and Alchimists that ever were, can not agree upon the qualities, neither first nor second of Mercure, some say it is both note and colde, both drye and moist, that

20 Blood-letting
21 Kidneys
22 Slobbering or drooling
it can binde and loose, that it can rarifie and thicken, and in a word, that it is a Protheus, or a Magician. So Tabacco is hot, because it hath acrimonie, it is cold because it is narcoticke and stupefective, it maketh drunken, and refresheth, it maketh hungrie and filleth, it maketh thirstie, and quencheth thirst: Finallie to bring man to health, it changeth as many formes as Jupiter doeth shapes to convey himselfe to his Mistresse: This difference onely there is, that Mercure being applied to any part of the body, provoketh spitting: But Tabacco purgeth by slaver onelie, being taken in the mouth in substance or in smoake. The Alchimists vaunt that they are able to drawe out of every thing Mercure, sulphure and salt, but truelie out of nothing can they be sooner or better separated, then out of Tabacco: I thinke that I durst be bold to say, that Tabacco is the Mercure of vegetals, and mercure is the Tabacco of minerals. Now to returne to our purpose, to wit, to the cure and preservation of an armie of maladies, Tabacco must be used after this maner. Take of leafe Tabacco as much as being folded together, may make a round ball of such bignesse that it may fill the patients mouth, and inclyne his face downward towards the ground, keeping the mouth open, not moving any whit with his tongue, except now and then to waken the medicaement, there shall flow such a flood of water from his brain and his stomache,
and from all the parts of his body that it shall be a wonder. This he must do fasting in the morning, and if it be for preservation, and the bodie very cacochyme, or full of evil humours, he must take it once a weeke, otherwise once a month: But if it bee to cure the Epilepsie or Hydorpsie once every day. Thus have I used Tabacco my selfe, and thus used Tabacco Jean Greis a venerable old man at Nantes in the French Britain, who lived whill he was six score yeares of age, and who was known for the only refuge of the poore afflicted soldiers of Venus when they were wounded with the French Pickes, I should have said Pockes. Thus much for the use of Tabacco in substance. As concerning the smoke, it may be taken more frequently, and for the said effects, but alwayses fasting, and with emptie stomack, not as the English abusers do, which make a smoke-boxe of their skull, more fit to be carried under his arme that selleth at Paris dunoir a noircir to blacke mens shooes, then to carie the braine of him that can not walke, can not ryde except the Tabacco Pype be in his mouth. I chanced in company on a tyme with an English merchant in Normandie between Howen and New-haven. This fellow was a merrie man, but at every house he must have a Cole to kindle his Tabacco: the Frenchmen wondered, and I laughed at his intemperancie. But there is one William

---

24 Dropsy

25 Boot blacking
Anslap an honest man dwelling in Bishops-gate street, hard within the gate that selleth the best Tabacco in England, and useth it most discreetly. Because the matter of smoake taking is controverted and disputed, I will first decide this question of smoake before I enter to shewe the commoditie which proceedeth of it. Suffumigation or receaving of smoake, is not a newe invented remedie, it is an old and well approoved forme of medicine in many diseases, Hippocrates in his booke of the diseases of women teacheth many kindes of smoake which women should receave and specially of many unsavourie and stinking things at the nose and the mouth, to represse and thrust back the mother in the suffocation, a fearefull and dangerous disease. The most expert Physicians in our dayes admit with one consent the smoake of tussilage to be received at the mouth, by those which are ptisicke, or asthmaticke or have the cough of cold. Gordon a learned olde Physitian, the Vade mecum of practitians, ordaineth Trochisques of Ambergreis, Muske, and other Ingredients to be used after the forme as we take smoake of Tabacco for the Epilepsie. In the booke called Anthorismi tonsorum, or Schola Salerni, there is a suffumigation made of Leek seeds, and white Insquiam seeds for the tooth ache to be received

---

26 Coltsfoot
27 Consumptive
28 Troches
at the mouth. Leonardo Fioravanti an Italian practi-
ian commendeth for deafenesse a suffumigation made with
cinabre, frankincense and myrrhe, to bee taken at the
mouth. Consider now good Lector, and repeat againe,
Shall Hippocrates permit the smoake of stinking feather-
ers, and of old rotten shooes from a Coablers dunghill?
shall other Physicians permit the smoke of tussilago?
shal Gordon prescribe the aromatical smoke of musk and
ambre? shal Schola Salerni permit Inquiam to bee incens-
ed in the mouth which is a venemous plant, shall Fior-
avanti command the smoke of cinabre, which is a present
poysen to infect the braine? and shall wee onely banish
the poore Tabacco which hath more vertue for all these
foresaide Diseases, then each of the forenamed things
hath for their severall sores. If the mother vexe and
torment a woman, the smoake of Tabacco either above or
under, shal ease her more, then feathers or lether.
If thou be ptisick, if thou be asthmaticke, if thou
be urged to oogh through defluxion, the smoake of Tab-
acco is better then tusilago: if the rage of toothache
excarnificate the goomes, Tabacco is better then Inqu-
iam: if there be sounding in the eares, it is fitter
then cinabre. I ad further, that amongst so many thou-
sands which use and abuse Tabacco at al occasions with-
out observation of any physicall precept, there are very
few found that can ascribe their death to Tabacco: so
that if Tabacco were used physically and with discretion
there were no medicament in the worldes comparable to it.
Now to returne from whence I did digresse to shew the commodities of Tabacco, I lay here as a ground to build upon, that by reason of the situation of mans head, which is above all the other members of the body, the most parte of diseases flow from the head, as from a fountain, that Tabacco going immediately to the brain, it not only augementeth and refresheth the animall spirits, but drieth the course of innumerable diseases, and fortifieth the braine. So that there is no man but may receive commoditie by the use of Tabacco, except only those which have their braine dry and hot, which is a temperament unnaturall to the braine, yea and a dangerous disease, and the next degree to reaving to furie, to madnesse. I know that every one will be curious to aske me how he shall know a hote and dry braine. Galen in his book which he calleth ars parvæ, declareth at large the signes of all intemperies, yet to satisfie the mindes of curious Lectors, it is evident that his braine is hot and dry who sleepe the very little or nothing, who reaveth waking, and formeth monstruous dreames sleeping, and whose nose distilleth nothing. It were a world of worke to specifie in particular all the diseases, and symptomes that are helped or prevented by Tabacco, but I will only set downe those which I know either by mine own experience, or by the faithfull reporte of learned Physicians or of credible patients. I will begin at the Epilepsie which is called by Hippocrates morbus sacer, the falling sicknes, and this plant

ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.
is called by some nations herba sacra: then after legitimate preparation, and such diet as a skilful Physician shall prescribe, let the patient be purged with infusion of Tabacco in hidromel, in the strained liquor of this infusion dissolve foure grainses of the salt made of Tabacco and give it to the patient to drinke: hereafter, having a cauter in his neck, he shall take every day the smoke of a pipe of fine Tabacco fasting in the morning, and once every third day hee shall hold in his mouth the apophlegmatisme of Tabacco in substance.

Now because this disease hath some occult venom and maligne qualitie, the olde Physicians by long experience have found out some things which helpe this disease by an indeclarable vertue, and for this cause he shall take the smoake of this confected Tabacco every day.

Take ambregrease, the seede of peonie, and stirax,

29 A liquor consisting of a mixture of honey and water which is then fermented: mead.

30 A cauter is literally the heated iron used to cauterize a wound. I cannot interpret Barclay's usage.

31 An apophlegmatisme was an agent which, held in the mouth, would cause phlegm to be expelled. Thus, here, a quid of tobacco.

32 A resin derived from a family of trees (Styrax officinalis) of which the quince is a member: Storax.
of every one halfe an ounce, of muske twentie graines, of lignum aloes the weight of three crownes, of magisterium cranii humani an ounce, of the sowing thereof, halfe an ounce, of fine Tabacco as much as of them all, make of all these a grosse powder, and take the smoake of it every morning, and thus the epilepticke shall attaine to his health rather then by galls of dogs and superstitious characters used by a number of ignorant deboshed Vagabondes and Montebanokes. The Hydropisie is one of the ordinarie customers that commeth to crave health at the shop of Tabacco, and specially if it bee holden in the patients mouth in substance, or if hee take now and then of the salt thereof, and every day a pipe or two. The Arthritis or gowt, and gravell are prevented prettily, because the antecedent cause is taken away: it preserveth from toothach: it cureth the migrain, the colicke, the oogh, the cold: It stayeth growing fatte: it is the antidote of Hypochondriacke melancholie, it prepareth the stomache for meat: it maketh a clear voice, it maketh a sweet breath, it cleareth the sight, it opneth the eares, it putteth away the punaise, openeth the passage of the nose, it is the nourse of the lights, it comforteth nerves, and taken in sirupe there is no obstruction that can abide it:

33 Stones, as gall-stones or kidney stones.

34 Bed-bug ?

35 The lungs.
Physician: for if the patient, as experience teacheth beginneth to feel the first hope of his health at the arrivall of his Physician: how much more shall he be allevated when he giveth him out of his owne hand the Cuppe which containeth the Covenant of his restitution, the earnest of his Wellfare, and the weapon to destroy his disease. Happy were the land that had no need of Physicians, happy the lande which having neede of them hath of the best sorte, and happie were the Physicians whose lote were to come in the lande where the Law of good King Reuther were curiously keeped, that no man under paine of death should exercise physicke that could not shew a publicke testimonie of his lawfull Calling. But I must say of Physicke as a holy Father saide of the holie Scripture, hanc delirus senex, hanc garrula 36 anus, hanc sophista verbosus putteth in practise, and is not punished. God save the Countrey from diseases, and God save the diseased from such Doctors

FINIS.

36 This doting old man, this babbling old woman, this verbose sophist.
it is present reliefe against the most part of poysons;  
And in few words it is the princesse of physical plants:  
To conclude this discourse I must excuse here my plain-
nessse and simplicitie with this caveat to the curious  
Lector, that albeit the never too much commended Tab-
acco bee of sufficiencie to cure many diseases: yet it  
is not of efficacie in al persons, in all seasons, in  
al temperaments, but it must bee used by the direction  
of some expert and prudent Physician. There was on a  
time a diseased Gentleman, who for to recover his health  
sent for a Physician, the which using prudently and art-
fically his cure, the Gentleman became wel, and because  
he was subject to that disease often in the yeare, hee  
remarked well how the Physician had prepared his potion,  
what herbes hee had decocted, what simples hee had in-
fused, what electuaries hee had dissolved, howe much of  
every one, how long they seethed, or steeped, at what  
a clocke he did minister it, how long hee fasted there-
after, and at the next assault of the sickness hee tooke  
the same potion, observing all Circumstances, but was  
nothing the better: he sent againe for Master Doctor,  
and inquired what the matter should be, seeing he was  
diseased with the same maladie, hee had taken the same  
potion, he used it very rightly with all the circumst-
ances and observations, he had not omitted one jote, No  
said the Physician you lacked a principal point, a very  
necessarie Circumstance and an essentiaall Cause, that  
is, you received not the potion from the hand of a
To the favourable Lector health.

There were some pages which I thought not meet to leave emptie, good Lector, either for thy sake, or for Tabaccoes sake, or for mine owne sake: for thy sake, because I wearie not to talke with thee; for Tabaccoes sake, because the worth of it deserveth some verses: for mine owne sake, because I never having slept in Parnassus, but being a valley Poete, I persuade my selfe that my verses shall be read more for the merites of the matter, then for the value of the Workeman. Therefore I addresse my selfe first to gaze against a craig, from whence some musicall influence may bedew my braine.

Ut sic repente Poeta prodeam.

37

In the original, the body of the pamphlet ended on leaf B4r and so Barclay added these poems to fill up some of the remaining nine leaves.

38

In this manner the poet herewith sets out.
To his very worshipfull, and deare Cousin,
the Laird of Boine.

The Gut which Vulcan forged in his yre,
To punish those which follow Venus way,
Can finde nothing to quench that flaming fyre,
So fit as fine Tabacco sundrie say,

For proofe of which great Piller of my kin
Tell what thou knowest: for to conceale were sin.
To his good and olde friend, M. Alexander Craig,

Craig if thou knowes the vertues of this plant,

Why dost thou dye thy quill in Inke of blame?
If thou knowes not, for to supplie thy want,
Why followes thou the voice of feining fame?

Is it not slander to this plant and thee,
To speake of it so poeticallie?
To his good Cousin Mr. John Hay, of Hanasse.

Hanibal had a house in Bythinie,
Builted after his craftie owne conceat,
On every side a doore was privillie,
For to preserve his life and staggering state,
But when the Romanes came for to defect
The onelie one of whom they stood in doubt,
Hanibal would not fight against his fate,
Knowing the doores were known and siegde about,
Good Cousin Hay, the soule is Hanibal,
The house with many doores it is the head,
Death and disease as Romanes siege them all
To suffocat the life without remead:
Except divine Tobacco make defence,
Kepe open doores, and raise the siege from thence.
To the abusers of Tobacco.

Why do you thus abuse this heavenlie plant
The hope of health, the fewell of our life?
Why, doe you waste it without feare of want,
Since fine and true Tobacco is not ryfe?

Olde Euclio wont foull water for to spair,
And stop the bellowes not to waste the Air.

39

A tight-fisted old man in Plautus' Aulularia.
To my Lord the Bishop of Murray.

The statelie rich late conquered Indian plaines,
Foster a plant, the princes of all plants.
Which Portugall after perill and paines,
To Europe brought, as it most justlie vants:
This plant at home the people and Priests assure,
Of his goodwill, whom they as God adore,
Both here and there it worketh wondrous cure,
And hath such heavenlie vertue hid in store.
A stranger plant shipwrecked in our coast,
Is come to help this cold phlegmatick soyle,
Yet can not live for calumnie and boast,
In danger daylie of some greater broyle;
   My Lord this sacred herb which never offendst
   Is forode to crave your favour to defend it.
To the most accomplished, and true Philoclea of this Yle,

L.E.L.L.F.

Some do this plant with odious crymes disgrace,
And call the poore Tabacco hemicid,
They say that it, 0 what a monstrous case!
Forestals the life, and kills man in the seed,
It smokeeth, blacketh, burneth all the braine,
It dryes the moisture treasure of the life,
It cureth not, but stupifies the pain,
It cuts our dayes before Atropus knife.
Good Ladie looke not to these raving speiches,
You know by proof that all these blames are lies,
Forged by sourvie leud unlearned Leiches,
As time hath taught, and practise that all tryes.
   Tabacco neither altereth health nor hew,
Ten thousand thousands know that it is true.
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books and Periodicals Consulted


Columbus, Christopher. *The Journal of Christopher Columbus (During his First Voyage, 1492-93)*. Translated by Clements R. Markham. London, 1893.


---------. A Counter-blaste to Tobacco. Edited by Edmund Goldsmid. Edinburgh, 1884.


---------. "Joseph Hall and Work for Chimney-sweepers," MLA, LI (1936), 407-413.


Work for Chimney-sweepers, or, A Warning for Tobacconists.

Micro-filmed works Consulted


Breithwait, Richard. A Solemnne Jovial Disputation, in­cluding, The Smoking Age, or, The Man in the Mist. No place, publisher, or date of publication given.


A Defense of Tobacco; with a friendly answer to the late printed work called Works for Chimny-sweepers. London; Richard Field, 1602.


A New and Short Defense of Tabacco. London; V. S., 1602.

VITA AUCTORIS

1937  Born Windsor, Ontario, January 30, son of Allan and Annie Armes.

1956  Completed high school at Hon. J. C. Patterson Collegiate of Windsor.

1956  Enrolled at Assumption University of Windsor.

1959  Graduated with a three-year Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in English Literature. Re-enrolled in the Masters' programme.

1961  Graduated with a Master of Arts degree, majoring in English Literature.