

The assize of ale. An informal audit of comments, curiosities, anecdotes and episodes, odds and ends of history and tradition all with more or less relation to Trinity audit ale ... New York, 1937.

Trinity Audit Ale As Brewed for Trinity College Cambridge

THE ASSIZE OF ALE

An Informal Audit of COMMENTS CURIOSITIES ANECDOTES AND EPISODES ODDS AND ENDS OF HISTORY AND TRADITION — all with more or less relation to Trinity Audit Ale A Periodical Published Occasionally to Improve The State of Wassail in the Nation

Copyright 1937 by The Trinity Audit Ale Association, Ltd.

122 East 42nd Street, New York City

“A Quart of Ale Is A Dish for a King”—Shakespeare

“And brought of Mighty Ale a large quart.”—Chaucer

(Cantab)

TRINITY AUDIT ALE is brewed for the annual Feast of the Audit—A celebration that discloses to those “on the Foundation” the extent of their dividends in the earnings of the College—occasion and a drink eagerly awaited.

The origin of TRINITY AUDIT, like the origins of Cambridge and Oxford, is lost in antiquity. And like the Universities, its story begins in the Middle Ages and spans the Renaissance and Reformation.

It reflects Medieval Craftsmanship in its color and full-bodied flavor—and the High Renaissance in its vigor and chameleonlike subtlety. It carries within it a high spirit of adventure cloaked by the smooth chivalry of its taste. Its beguiling good manners, like those of a Macchiavelian courtier, conceal the swaggering strength of an Elizabethan sea-dog.

A collector's item—for connoisseurs of fine drinks and good living.

“TRINITY AUDIT is as Superior to All Other Mortal Brews as ‘Chateaux Lafitte’ is to ‘Vin Ordinaire.’ ‘Fancy it Burgundy, only fancy it, and 'tis worth ten shillings a quart.’”—John Bickerdyke, the Pseudonymous Gourmet of the 19th Century.

Ale in the old days was a folk personage. Sir Ale, a familiar character in ballads and home-spun plays, was better known than St. Nicholas. The glory of the Cellarer, the most important official in the great monasteries, became the legacy of Sir Ale. Progenitor of Falstaff, he moved in a saintly aura between the Alehouse and Heaven. At his court were the Noble Brewsters, Masters of the Cellars and Lord Patrons of the Ale. On Feast-Days Sir Ale was King.

Sir Ale's Master of the Rolls for AUDIT ALE, on his appointment, would inscribe, as Lord Patrons of the Ale the names of Founders, Fellows, Benefactors and Members of Trinity College through the ages, including among others:

King Edward II

King Edward III

Thomas Morton Secretary to Edward III who saw to Building of First Home of TRINITY AUDIT ALE in 14th Century and whose descendant, Charles Morton, was Harvard's first Vice-President 300 years later

Edward the Black Prince

John of Gaunt

Lord Bishop of Salisbury

Lord Bishop of Lichfield

King Henry VIII

King Edward VI

Queen Mary

Queen Elizabeth

Earl of Essex

Sir Francis Bacon

Sir Edward Coke, Lord Chief Justice "*Coke-upon-Littleton*"—*a book and a famous drink*

The Archbishop of Canterbury

Sir Isaac Newton

John Dryden

John Donne

George Herbert, *poet*

Abraham Cowley, *poet*

John Winthrop *Founder of Boston, Cambridge and Groton*

Nathaniel Eaton *1st President of Harvard*

Abraham Pierson *Father of 1st President of Yale*

Charles Chauncy *3rd President of Harvard and Father of a Founder of Yale*

John Cotton *Grandfather of Cotton Mather, Witch-Baiting Harvard Luminary who got Elihu Yale to endow Yale*

Lord Byron

William M. Thackeray

Lord Macaulay

Edward Fitzgerald *Omar Khayyam*

Alfred Lord Tennyson

Peter Saxton *Famed in Massachusetts for name of his daughter, Silent Pool*

King Edward VII

The Prince of Wales

The Duke of Clarence

The Duke of York

A. E. Housman, *who wrote, "Malt does more than Milton can, To justify God's way to man."*

a legacy of the Ages

1710 "Trinity College has the Best Ale in the Whole University"

— **Dr. RICHARD BENTLEY**, *the Pugnacious Classicist lampooned by Pope and Swift. His Audit Ale bill for 1708, during his stormy Mastership of Trinity, was £107:16 (the equivalent of some \$2500 today!)*

1816 "Where now is the Goodly AUDIT ALE?"

—**LORD BYRON.**

1840 "The Best of All.... Trinity Audit. "

—R. H. BARHAM pays Oxford tribute, in his *Ingoldsby Legends*.

1852 "I should be much obliged to you for That Excellent Audit Ale" "Perfect."

—**LORD MACAULAY.**

American Tributtes

1863 **NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE** wrote "*But of all things ever brewed from Malt (unless it be The Trinity Ale of Cambridge which I drank ... and which Barry Cornwall celebrated in immortal verse), commend me to the Archdeacon.*" — (*another traditional ale of Old England, similar to Trinity Audit but, sad to tell, no longer brewed*)—... "*this admirable liquor ... a superior kind of Ale, THE PRINCE OF ALES, with a richer flavour and a mightier spirit than you can find elsewhere in this weary world.*"

1937 "Trinity Audit &.... a handmade brew Joyfully Swigged at Trinity College, Cambridge, for some 600 years."

—**THE NEW YORKER.**

"Trinity Audit Ale.... Quite the Best that has Crossed the Seas. "

—**TOWN & COUNTRY.**

(over)

“Nut Brown Mirth Rising From The Froth of A Blessed Sea of Ale”

“When shall we meet againe to have a taste of that Transcendent Ale we dranke of last?”

—Beaumont (Oxon.) to Fletcher (Cantab), Elizabethan Partners in Comedy.

“I stuff my skyn so full within Of jolly good ale and olde.

Refrain

Back and side go bare, go bare, Both foote and hande go colde; But, Belly, God send thee good Ale enoughe, Whether it be newe or olde.”

From most famous Ale Song in English which appeared in our second oldest Comedy (“Gammer Gurton's Needle”) written in 1566 by “Jolly” John Still, Master of Trinity College, Friend of Edmund Spenser and Lord of the Audit Ale, Elizabethan “Bon Vivant,” Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells, Forefather of the Winthrops, Downings and Chauncys in New England.

Craftsmanship in the Machine Age

Originally, England was almost entirely an ale-drinking nation. Ale was considered equally with bread as a necessary staple of life. It was the standard breakfast drink down to the end of the 18th century.

Horace Walpole and Thomas Gray were considered queer eccentrics in their time for taking tea at breakfast. They were the only two in all Cambridge to do so in the seventeen-thirties. In earlier times there was no coffee, tea or chocolate. Whisky and brandy were used sparingly as medicines. Gin was unheard of. And water in the cities was hardly fit to drink.

Good wines were costly and hard to get. A form of Sherry called Sack was popular, but the many imported wines of the day were poor and sour fare compared to the genuine nut-brown October Ale of English tradition.

CENTURIES went into the making of the great ales of Old England. The pity is that practically all of them disappeared before the onslaught of industrialized brewing. Their fate in the Industrial Revolution has been the same as other of the great products of Hereditary Craftsmanship—the

fabulous stained glass of the Middle Ages, the great tapestries, the unsurpassed plate and pewter of other days.

The Machine Age has little patience with a brew that requires a year to make and a great deal of attention and one that is very ticklish to bottle.

But TRINITY AUDIT ALE has survived. It is one of the genuine products of men skilled in the genius of the hand. No evidence is needed on this score but the taste of it. And it has survived simply because it has remained a private brew in the custody of those who recognized it as a legacy of the ages and have so preserved and respected it as the best, and probably the only, vestige we have of the Great Days of Ale.

On long winter evenings or on a rainy afternoon—a log fire, a good book and “Honest English Ale”—that is the picture extolled by the great English writers and associated with their greatest books.

And TRINITY AUDIT is *the* Ale that has “nurtured Stronge Men and Great Books.”

... Age cannot wither nor custom stale...

“TRINITY AUDIT is perfectly reliable from a keeping point of view. However long it is kept, neither the condition nor the flavour will alter.”

—Edward Taplin, Esq., of Great Yarmouth, Leading Authority on Audit Ale.

“*Blessing of your heart, you brew good ALE*” —Shakespeare

COMMENTS and OPINIONS

—Today

“*I have tasted the TRINITY AUDIT ALE and find it FILLS A LONG-FELT WANT IN MY LIFE. Send six more cases.* —A Vice-President of the Bank of New York and Trust Co.

“*I certainly enjoyed the AUDIT ALE... an excellent OUTDOOR DRINK in my opinion...send two more cases.*” —Potent New York Paper Merchant

“*After friends taste my AUDIT ALE, I think there will be immense demand...If the plan works through, you will be regarded as a Public Benefactor... I should like four more cases.* —”President of one of the “Big Three” Eastern Universities

" Twelve little reasons for happiness (Seven up on the Quintups) A case of AUDIT duodecuplets, glorified in our feathers, arrived. Praises of Puritan Pundits Hyperbolic. "—Comparative Ornithology at Harvard.

" The Ale is excellent. Thank you for the opportunity. TRINITY AUDIT ALE is the ARISTOCRAT AND ICONOCLAST OF ALL MORTAL BREWS. "—A Director of the Providence-Biltmore.

" The AUDIT ALE arrived, much to the delight of the entire family. I am very grateful to you for letting me have it. "—Master of a College, at Harvard

Others say TRINITY AUDIT is: "The Only Civilized Drink," "Perfectly Delicious," "Everything you claim for it," "Certainly a Noble Drink," "Too good to be True," "Could not be Better," "By all odds the Most Delicious," "Perfect Product," "A Godsend to this Country."

"For myself, I have never tasted anything better. —Master of a College at Yale."

" Oh it gladdens the heart to see what may spring from the ale of Trinitie."

— Old Punch Song

To Discriminating Hosts and Hostesses, Sponsors of the Good Things of the Earth—

Audit Ale opens a new field for dinners and parties that are different. As a drink it stimulates good talk and as a story it furnishes a novel spring-board for dinner conviviality. Old English Ale dinners are predicted this season.

" The dinner was well cooked; the AUDIT ALE perfect "—Lord Macaulay's Letters.

And a buffet lunch, either hot or cold, with TRINITY AUDIT will bring "Spring and Laughter to your Heart." Unique for Picnics and Outings of all kinds.

As for Ale parties for MAKING WASSAIL!.....!!

Wassail is once again in fashion as the word for "Gentle Revelry and a Hearty Good Time"...not to mention its re-adoption as a cheerful salutation, the old-time Saxon greeting of "Health and Good Fortune." Waes Hael!

SUPERB—after golfing, tennis, swimming, riding, shooting, fishing. For all who have a common bond with English Country and sporting life.

Private Brew

TRINITY AUDIT ALE will remain a Private Brew here just as it is in Cambridge—sold by invitation and not available in public bars or stores.

This Ale is offered for sale subject to all Federal and State laws. This News-Letter is not intended as an advertising or offering in states where illegal. New York State License C-101

Wassail!

The Trinity Audit Ale Association, Ltd., 122 East 42nd Street, New York City Form 1

133/25b