



"A Little Ditty for You:" The History of Coffee



"A certain kind of liquor which they call coffe . . . will soon intoxicate the brain." W. Parry, *Sherley's Travels*, 1601.

"Coffee is recommended against the Contagion." G. Harvey, *Advice Against Plague*, 1665.

"Coffee which makes the politician wise, And we see through all things with his half-shut eyes." Alexander Pope, *The Rape of the Lock*, 1712-14.

"Ah! How sweet coffee taste! Lovelier than a thousand kisses, sweeter far than muscatel wine! I must have my coffee." Johann Sebastian Bach, *Kaffee-Kantate*, 1732.

ACCORDING to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, coffee (in Turkish pronounced "kahveh") is said by Arab lexicographers to have originally meant "wine." The European language generally appears to have attained the name coffee from the Turkish "kahveh" in approximately 1601. Coffee has a rich history, dating to prior to 1000 AD, when Ethiopian tribes connected coffee with a short-term energy boost by eating the coffee "berry." After Arab traders returned to the East with coffee, it was cultivated and boiled, resulting in what was referred to as "qahwa," meaning "that which prevents sleep." Coffee was introduced to Constantinople by the Ottoman Turks. There, in 1475, Kiva Han, the first recorded coffee shop was opened. Records of the period show that according to Turkish law, women could divorce their husbands if they were not provided with their daily quota of the beverage! In 1511 the governor of Mecca attempted to ban coffee, fearful that its influence might foster opposition to his rule; the Sultan, however, claiming that coffee was sacred, had the governor executed.

Coffee was introduced to the Western world by Italian traders and merchants in 1600. Pope Clement VIII considered the favorite drink of the Ottoman Empire an "infidel threat" and "baptized" it before declaring it an acceptable Christian drink. It is believed that Captain John Smith introduced coffee to North America upon the founding of Jamestown in 1607. The *Oxford English Dictionary* points out that the coffeehouse, too, has an interesting history as a place of entertainment where coffee and other refreshments are supplied and as a frequent meeting place for the purpose of political and literary conversation and the circulation of news. The first coffeehouse opened in Italy in 1645, in England in 1668, in Paris in 1672, and in Berlin in 1721.

As early as the late 1600s, coffee became a favorite breakfast and after-dinner drink in the U.S., replacing beer. During the Prohibition, coffee sales reached new heights. Today coffee continues to be one of the world's most popular beverages, and customers continue to frequent coffeehouses to share news and to enjoy conversation and friendship. At Missouri Mud, this tradition holds true. Customers are greeted with a smile, and people congregate with friends, old and new alike.



Enjoy the finest selection of gourmet coffees in Raymore, MO, by the cup or the pound. Stop in, and let Ashley, resident goddess of coffee, prepare your favorite beverage. Whether your preference is a steaming cup of strong black java, a cappuccino with touch of cinnamon, or a mocha, iced or hot (just to name a few), Missouri Mud proudly serves your beverage!