

He Was a Wise Man Who Invented Beer
by Joan Black

HE WAS A WISE MAN WHO INVENTED BEER - Plato

*Beer, beer, glorious beer.
Fill yourselves right up to here.
Drink a great deal of it, make a good meal of it,
Glorious, glorious beer!*

How can you NOT link arms with your friends & sway to the lilt of this joyous old drink song?

“Beer is proof that God loves us & wants us to be happy” is an anonymous quote often erroneously attributed to Ben Franklin - but I think it's safe to assume that Ben downed a tankard or two with his colleagues & God certainly wants us to be happy.

*Beer, beer, glorious beer,
Served up with Bratwurst & cheer.
Don't be afraid of it, drink 'till you're made of it.
Glorious, glorious beer!*

In Europe, specifically Bavaria, beer brewing was on hiatus during the six months of summer as beer needs cool temperatures to ferment. With the resumption of the process in late September, a 2 week festival was held to celebrate. This celebration was incorporated into the festivities for the wedding of Crown Prince Ludwig & Princess Therese in 1810 - and from that derived Oktoberfest.

*Beer, beer, glorious beer.
Up with the sale of it, down with a pail of it.
Now, altogether - “HEAR! HEAR!”*

The Beergartens of Munich have long held the biggest Oktoberfests and it is there that the long tables & benches crowded with celebrants linking arms & waving their glass tankards of foaming beer while singing silly, or stirring songs, originated. Now the custom has spread world wide & Milwaukee (with it's many Breweries) is one of the biggest parties in the United States -but there are lots of smaller, more intimate socials, & Windsor Gardens very own Hoffbrau House will host a beer garden/beer hall dance on Friday, October 5th.

*Beer, beer, glorious beer.
Try not to cry in it, eat a pork pie with it.
Glorious, glorious beer!*

So, dig out your lederhosen & dirndls, bring your own Stein & come dance (Polka?) to an Oompah Band. Partake of authentic German Pretzels, Potato Salad, Brats and, of course, BEER!

BOTTOMS UP & DOWN THE HATCH!