

The Most Ancient Booze... Ever

We tend to associate beer with Oktoberfest and everything Teutonic, but beer was actually first brewed in **China** around the year **7000 BCE**. In the Western world **beer brewing** started around **3500 BCE** in **Mesopotamia** (modern-day Iran), from where it reached **Sumeria**. Here beer became a symbol of civilization itself – so much so that Sumerians invented the **straw** to drink it. They also devoted a whole poem to it, **Hymn to Ninkasi**, which also was a way to pass down its recipe generation by generation. Under **Babylonian rule**, Mesopotamian beer brewing became

so popular that it had to be regulated, as paragraph 108 from the **Code of Hammurabi** (harshly!) points out: *'If a tavern-keeper does not accept corn according to gross weight in payment of drink, but takes money, and the price of the drink is less than that of the corn, she shall be convicted and thrown into the water.'* By the time beer got to **Egypt**, it was already ... well, ancient history.



Click on the picture for a
VIDEO
on the history of beer brewing