

SIR WALTER RALEIGH —A HEAVY SMOKER

Interesting History of Tobacco

Baleigh, thanks to his intimacy with the colonists, had been initiated more deeply than most into the mysteries of smoking, and the wonderful properties of tobacco. Not only was he a heavy smoker who thoroughly enjoyed smoking, but he was also quick to recognise in tobacco an article of commercial value which could be readily and profitably marketed in England, and indeed in Europe. Sir Walter's London house was by the river banks, on ground now occupied by Adelphi Terrace, and it is here that Shakespeare is said to have visited him, though the story of their smoking together is probably untrue; there is no mention of smoking in any of the plays, as there surely would have been had the poet been a devotee of this novel and epochmaking fashion.

Raleigh on Fire

Raleigh, on the other hand, loved his pipe and smoked persistently, to the amazement of those to whom the thing was merely strange and incomprehensible, and whose attitude is summed up in the following well-known anecdote, told not only of Raleigh, but also of other celebrities of the day. Raleigh, so goes the story, was sitting in his room one day enjoying a quiet smoke when one of his gardeners entered to ask for orders; as soon as he caught sight of Sir Walter enveloped in a cloud of smoke that issued from him, he ran in terror from the room, to return immediately with a bucket of water which he emptied over his unfortunate master, whom he thought was in danger of burning to death.

Raleigh's Home, "Myrtle Grove"

Raleigh's interest in tobacco led him to experiment with the leaf, and by an early and simple form of blending was successful in establishing a better quality tobacco—a service which was appreciated by all who knew him.

Raleigh carried out most of his experiments at his Irish home, "Myrtle Grove," a rambling two-storied mansion situated on the hills overlooking Youghal Bay, in the County of Cork. It is interesting to note that the now famous Myrtle Grove Tobacco took its name from this historic home in which Raleigh carried out so many experiments for the improvement of tobacco, and for the greater enjoyment of the growing body of English smokers.

Try an ownce of Myrtle Grove