

# **The INNS, TAVERNS and PUBS of COLCHESTER**

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a local history study,

compiled and written by

Jess A Jephcott

and concerning Colchester's:

old inns and taverns,  
the later hotels and public houses and,  
some of the modern-day theme pubs,  
wine bars and some bar cafés  
(and a section on non-Colchester,  
North East Essex pubs).

**THE SMOKER'S  
EDITION**

(Smoking was banned in pubs in 2007)

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First edition of 240 perfect bound and 10 hardback copies printed in 1995.

Second edition (The Millennium Edition) of 100 perfect bound copies printed in 1999.

Third edition (The Smoker's Edition) of 50 perfect bound copies printed in 2007.

To obtain a copy of this book, or to offer additional material for future editions,  
please contact the author at:

Ditchling, Quilters Green, Fordham, Colchester, CO6 3LZ.

or via

[www.camulos.com](http://www.camulos.com)

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For those that are interested and understand such things, this book was written on a Personal Computer, using Microsoft Word (a word processing programme) and printed in Garamond, CelticMD and Brush Script. The main text is in 10pt Garamond.

This is a non-PC publication.  
The pea-brained idiots who promote political correctness  
are gradually taking over and destroying our heritage.  
Oppose them – before it is too late!

#### WARNING!

There is material in this book which might be considered as distasteful.  
There is also material in this book which might be considered as humorous.  
If you are a prude with no sense of humour, please think again before proceeding.

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front cover picture:

'Hythe Hill, looking west towards St Leonard's church.'

Painted by Major Bale around 1900, showing the Dolphin Inn and what would then have been the Packet Inn. The area of the town that it depicts is little changed today, showing a carter driving his heavily laden wagon up the hill towards the town. It is reproduced with the kind permission of Colchester Museum.

back cover picture:

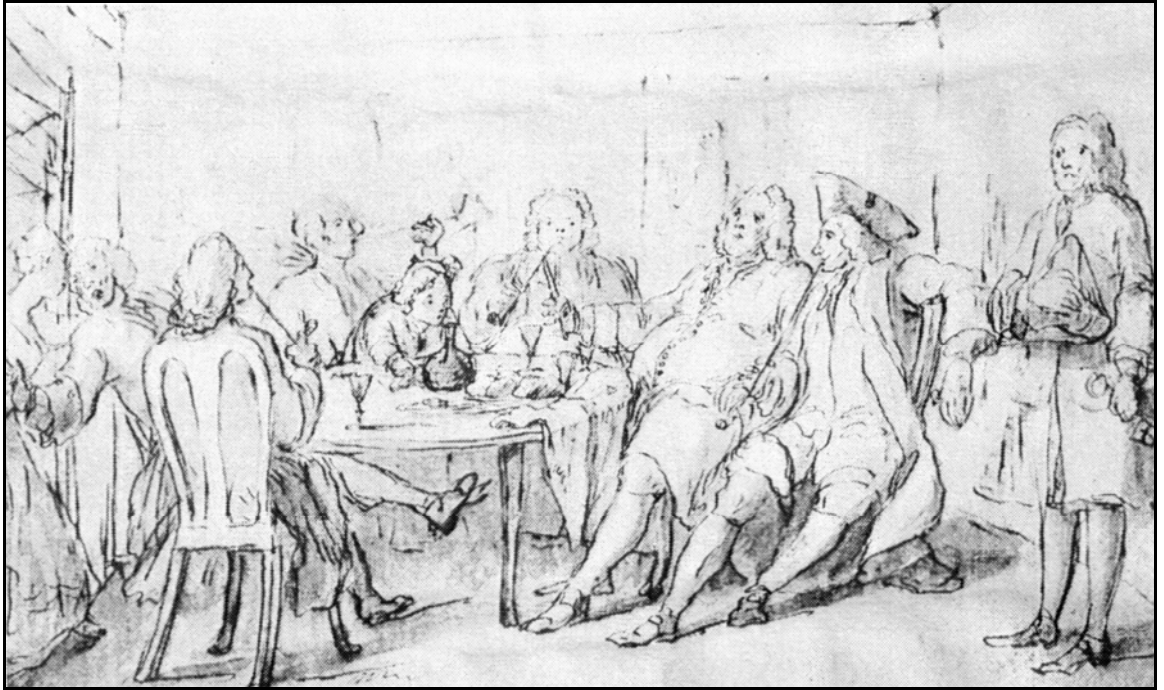
'Bottolph Street, Colchester, Essex.'

Unsigned and undated, it is believed to be by Edward Eyre and dated around 1790. He was a military man and seems to have painted several views of Colchester, being characterised by a fondness for sunbeams, elegant ladies and soldiers; all of which are in this picture. The original was once owned by Mr Arthur T Osborne, Colchester brewer and owner of many public houses, but is now owned by the Borough of Colchester and held at the Colchester Museum. It shows an area of Colchester which has since been completely swallowed up by St Botolph's roundabout, depicting the building that became the Woolpack Inn on the right, and the Plough Inn on the left. The sign of the Plough is just visible. It is a view looking south, towards the foot of the present day Mersea Road, with the old (medieval) buttressed wall and the windmill behind, the latter taken down at the time of the Crimean War when the Camp was being formed. The street is paved with coarse cobbles, once so common in the town, and the gutter is in the middle of the road. It is a delightful work of art and an obvious choice for inclusion in this book. It is reproduced with the kind permission of Colchester Museum.

A Convivial Meeting

presumed to be by

William Hogarth



This illustration is from a sketch, believed to have been drawn by William Hogarth (1697 to 1764.)

It is entitled 'A Convivial Meeting' and shows various characters sitting round a table at a tavern, smoking and drinking. One of the number is giving an order to a maid who enters at the door. A man-servant, with a key in his hand, stands at the other side.

## Acknowledgements

I have received so much help and encouragement from landlords, ex-landlords and landladies, the 'old boys and girls,' local historians, museum and library staff, that there are too many to mention by name. To all of them I offer my thanks for helping me in the preparation of this book.

I am particularly grateful for the help and assistance given to me by the staff of the following bodies and for their permission to reproduce many of the illustrations shown within this book.

Colchester Library, Local Studies Section  
Colchester Museum Resources Centre  
Essex Record Office, Colchester (closed in 2007)

My special thanks to Theresa for the help given with proof reading, constructive criticism and general assistance with getting the book to print.

Finally, to my old dad, Arthur Henry (Jeph) Jephcott, for setting me on the path of pub appreciation, that was to ultimately result in this work being produced. My dad, my hero!

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## Dedication

I dedicate this book to the memory of

**Mr Gerald Owen Rickword**

who died 18th January 1969 at the age of 82 years.

It was said of him that he carried in his head and in his reference books, a mass of information, particularly about his chief love, the Army, and about Colchester's families, businesses and, of course, its inns.

Local historians have become accustomed to drawing on the accumulated treasury of their seniors. As these pioneers pass on, research is continued by a younger generation. We are fortunate indeed that so many of Gerald Rickword's records have been preserved, so that others have been able to gain from this remarkable man's depth of knowledge and interest in Colchester's rich history.

## Contents

Chapter	Description	Page
1	Introduction	1
2	This Pub Business!	3
	What is a Pub?	3
	Types of Licences and Premises	4
	The Landlord and Modern Trends	5
	Pub Names and Signs	6
	Beers and Brand Names	8
	CAMRA, GOLD and SOCKED	9
	Billeting and the Army	10
	Prostitution and Brothels	10
	Recollections from 1906	12
	The Ghost Pub Tour	16
	A Half in Every Pub!	17
	Colchester's Beer Houses	18
3	Licensing and other Statistics	19
	Colchester Pubs - 1764 to 1819	25
	Colchester Pubs - 1920 to 1924	27
	Pubs in 2007	28
	Calendar of Events - 1872 to date	30
4	Owners of Public Houses (and Brewers)	33
5	An A to Z History of Premises	63
	Pubs	65
	Wine Bars	316
6	Maps	325
	The 1876 Map Series	330
	The 1909 Insurance Maps	404
7	Reference	427
	Sources Consulted	427
	Bibliography	431
	Your Local - by Bacchus	432
	The Inns, Taverns and Pubs of North-East Essex	434
	Index	465
	Directory Extracts	466
	An Index of Pub Names	471
	An Index of Illustrations	472
	Main Index	475

### **Notes to the Smoker's Edition**

This book is an updated version of the Millennium edition that was published in 2000.

It includes additional information and many extra illustrations and corrects certain anomalies that had been pointed out to me.

Rather than include present day information about pubs, which is all too soon out of date and irrelevant, I have set up an internet website to give both up-to-date information about today's pubs, and to place some of the text of this book on to the internet for world-wide access.

To access the website, please go to:

**[www.camulos.com](http://www.camulos.com)**

or (if something has since changed in this technological medium) simply search the internet using the keywords:

camulos colchester pubs

jaj - 2007