

FINAL PROJECT
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES CERTIFICATE PROGRAM
RACHEL CARSON CENTER / LMU MÜNCHEN

Beer Environments. The Environmental History of Beer.

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**BEER & ENVIRONMENT. HOW A BREWERY CHANGED A LANDSCAPE.
OR
BEER ENVIRONMENTS: THE ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY OF BEER.**

Idea behind the project

Two thousand sixteen is the year of Bavarian beer! In the year 1516, the dukes Wilhelm IV. and Ludwig X. of Bavaria decided to give a new common law called the “Landesordnung” to their people. One passage in the law was written about beer in which the only ingredients allowed were barley, hops, and water. This law, called the “Reinheitsgebot”, is still used today and mentioned as the first Act on food production.

Currently, I am doing my PhD on a small area with a castle situated in the middle of the area which was once ruled by the former bishops of Freising until year 1803. This castle, known as the Castle of Burgrain, once contained a brewery.

Material can be found on the brewing processes since the 17th century. It was this discovery which inspired my first idea to give a talk on the brewing history in the castle.



Currently the castle is under private ownership, however the owners were very interested with my proposed idea. But they wanted to have a large beer event while opening the exhibition and other parts of the castle for the public. Because of this, my actual idea was changed and I had to do more than I had previously planned.

*Castle of Burgrain with the no longer used brewery buildings right of the church;
Picture taken 1977.*

Beer & Environment

Rather than giving a talk, I created 30 charts on 10 beer related topics. It was not on just the history of the place, but a contextualization within Bavarian history. In addition, I wrote about the brewing process and the spread of the local beer, historical and current laws concerning beer, and many other topics. During my general and local research and readings on beer, I noticed that there are several ways to focus on environmental topics. This topic progression changed my initial idea of a final project and instead I turned it into a research focus on “Beer & Environment”. The aim was to show the visitors what I had realized during my research.

While preparing the exhibition with the 10 topics from beer production to beer history, I found many examples of how the brewery influenced the whole area. I picked two of these environmental aspects – the resin and pitch production, and the cultivation of hops – to

create 4 posters. There are more aspects which were outlined in further charts. For example, the oldest food act of the world or the discussions of grains – wheat, barley, spelt, and rye – on whether or not they should be used to produce beer. Or, whether or not herbs should be allowed to influence the taste of this everyday drink. Finally, I studied archival sources about several buildings and construction sites in order to determine how many resources, such as wood, that they required. I tried to make these sources transparent and understandable for the visitors.

This is how these local environmental topics became a part of the exhibition.

The first theme I concentrated on was pitch: Why do you need pitch at a brewery and how to produce it? Why are there environmental problems?

The barrels must be sealed to transport liquids and for this reason they used pitch. The so called ‘brewery pitch’ consists of pitch, different types of tree resin products (kolophonium / rosin, retinol), and paraffin.

Pitch originated from a special heating process (pyrolysis under air graduation) of tree resin. This is where the environmental aspect comes into place through the harvest of this resin. There is evidence in the archival sources that the regular cuts in the bark injured the trees in the area which belongs to Burgrain. At a forest visitation in 1738, they found out that several hundred young trees perished.

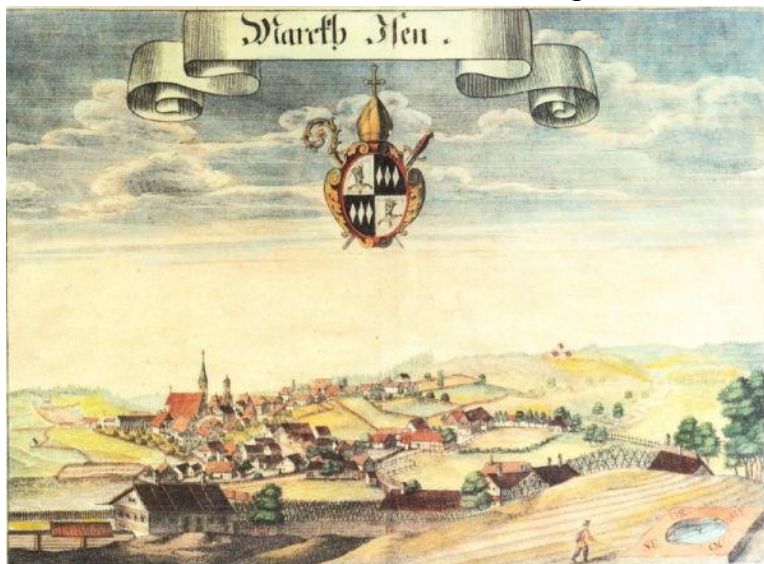


So called “Harzlachten” at a pine.

Joseph Haunisch, who was responsible for the damage, wasn’t able to expand his business. During that time, there were special forestry regulations at around the year 1700 concerning the harvest of resin with one especially for Bavaria in 1763. But, it wasn’t until 1790 that the regulations were implemented on that territory.

From the 17th to the 19th century, it was the hops production which formed the landscape in and around Burgrain. After the 30 years war, it was easier to plant hops in Bavaria instead of restoring the destroyed vineyards. Some people say that the cold periods from 1570-1630 and 1675-1715 contributed to this development.

The cultivation of hops can be seen on several painted images from local villages from around 1700. There’s also the first land register of the castle which shows plantations next the castle.



During the 1850s, the production of resin was industrialized and when the right to brew beer on castle Burgrain was sold in 1917, these environmental aspects lost their influence on the territory.

Image of ‘Isen’, painted in 1701 by M. Wening with hopgardens in the front.

The event „Bier in Bayern – Bier in Burgrain“



The beer festival was organized over weeks together with a group of locals, a small local brewery, and the “Arbeitskreis für Heimatpflege und Kultur des Marktes Isen”. On May 5th, 2016, the event “Bier in Bayern – Bier in Burgrain” took place at castle Burgrain half an hour from Munich. One of the topics for the over 1000 visitors was about the above described “Bier & Umwelt”.

My goal was to show the different themes concerning beer on special places connected to each topic. This enabled the visitors to learn about the history of the beer gardens while being in the beer garden, the spread of the local beer at the viewpoint, the demolition of the former brewery buildings in the patio area where they stood before, among other topics.



The four charts with my environmental topics received a special place: I didn’t want them in the exhibition, but outside. I didn’t want them somewhere in a corner but at a prominent place, in order for all visitors to pass by. The final destination was in the middle of the area near a quiet corner of the inner patio. This allowed visitors to concentrate on the topics while providing time to realize the special natural conditions of the brewery.



During the day, I didn’t have the opportunity to concentrate on that one location. However, whenever I passed by or talked to the people, they asked me to provide more information, especially on the local aspects of the brewery. Many of the visitors also liked the combination of politics, conflicts, resources, architecture, and family history I tried to visualize. Thanks to my sister, Juliane Hutterer, I was able to bring all these topics to life in a perfect and excellent fitting corporate design. Without it, the entire work would have been non-visual.

Vision

Due to the success of the whole event and the many questions about where the several themes could be seen again, I decided to keep working on the topic. It would be a great cultural loss not to make all the work publically available. After spending hours of work on the content and design, I'm now in the process of creating a small book on "Bier in Bayern – Bier in Burgrain".

The book presentation and release is scheduled for the middle of September at the castle. I hope to include more environmental aspects in the book than I could present here.

IMPRESSIONS

