

Ein Bier, Bitte!

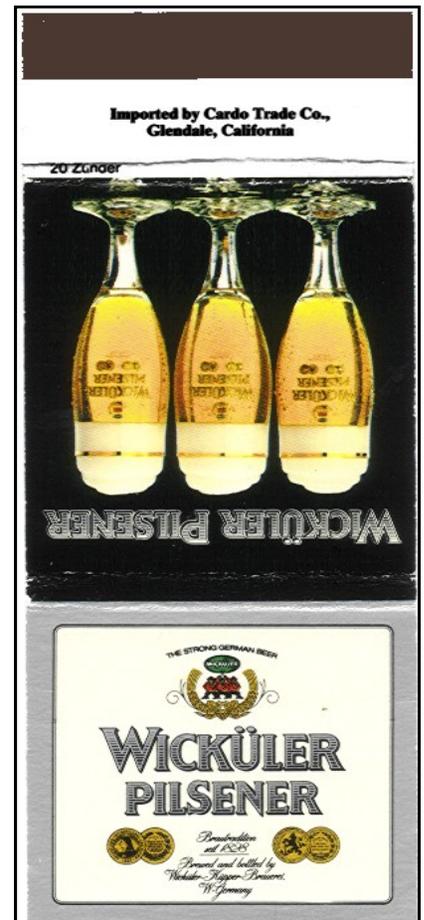
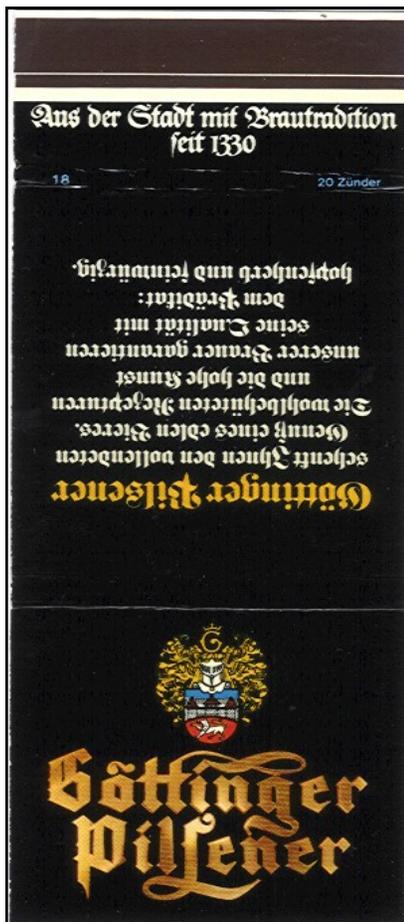
by
Mike Prero

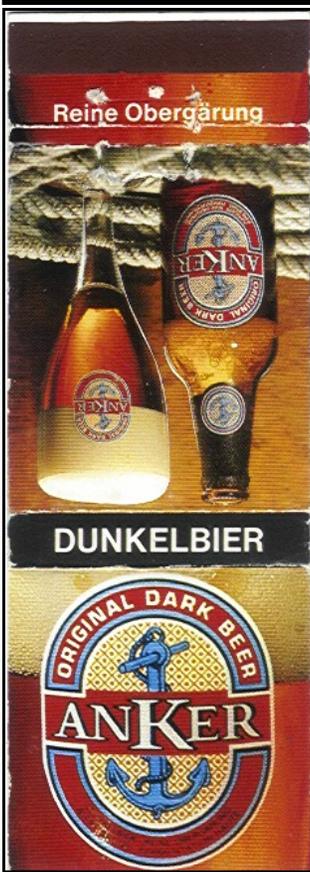
“Ein bier, bitte!” Boy, does that bring back memories!...1971...Octoberfest...two drunks in a beer tent in Munich...one was a guy from Yugoslavia; the other one was me...two English girls seated opposite...they were bumming around Europe for the summer...Brother, what a night!...But, that’s another story...

It’s beer that’s our topic of discussion here, foreign beer! Although I could count the beers I’ve had in the last 25 years on one hand, I put away quite a few brewskies while I was stationed in West Germany...beers from all over the world; that’s why foreign beer covers are “sentimental” value to me.

There’s certainly no lack of them, either. Those pictured here are just some from my own collection, but there must be thousands in existence.

One of the things that has always caught my imagination about foreign beers, especially European beers, is that they’re s-o-o-o-o old! Several of America’s largest breweries can boast that they have been in





production since the 1800s, but that's "new" in Europe. Look at the Gottinger Pilsener cover on the front page... "since 1330"! And that's not even the oldest! Beer, itself, of course, is one of the oldest alcoholic beverages around. It was already well-known in Ancient Egypt, and today just about every modern country in the world has its own breweries and its own brands.

Both the Gottinger and Wickuler pilseners are German beers, just two of many, many German brands. Traveling from town to town in Europe, you could always pick up colorful, cardboard beer coasters in all of the taverns and restaurants, each distributed by a particular brewery. Each had the brewery's logo and usually the town's name. They made great souvenirs, and I came home with two big shoeboxes full.

Pictured on this page are: Anker, a German beer (upper left); Hurliman Lager, and an Austrian beer (upper right); Carta Blanca, a Mexican beer; and Cascade, an Australian beer (lower right).

Being foreign covers, most are of an odd size and will not fit into the usual old slotted pages without some modifications. You can either enlarge the slots or mount the covers on blank pages with photo corners or the like. The odd sizes might also give plastic page users some problems.

Paging through more foreign Beer covers, we see Swan Gold, an Australian beer. This is a 'lite' beer with reduced calories for those of us who are watching our figures...or for those of us who are watching other people's figures! Then there's Tuborg from Copenhagen and the world-famous Lowenbrau from Munich.

Tui East Indian Pale Ale is from New Zealand. Although not well known here, Tui is a brand that is famous throughout the Pacific area. You might run across Toby Ale, one of England's great ales.

How about Japanese beers (Kirin and Sapporo), both very common throughout the Pacific area. Reininghaus Pils is from Austria, which has a thriving beer industry, itself, despite being right next to the world's beer giant, Germany. 0907.



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