

Featuring Full-Lengths!

Cigars



These beauties show off cigars! People either love cigars or hate them, and they have come to symbolize the ‘fat cats’ in society, but there’s no denying their history.



The origins of cigar smoking are still unknown. In Guatemala, a ceramic pot dating back to the tenth century features a Mayan smoking tobacco leaves tied together with a string. “Sikar,” the term for smoking used by the Maya, may have inspired the name “cigar.”



Christopher Columbus is generally credited with the introduction of tobacco to Europe. Tobacco was widely diffused among all of the islands of the Caribbean and therefore he again encountered it in Cuba where he and his men had settled. His sailors reported that the Taínos on the island of Cuba smoked a primitive form of cigar, with twisted, dried tobacco leaves rolled in other leaves such as palm or plantain.



European sailors adopted the hobby of smoking rolls of leaves, as did the Conquistadors, and smoking primitive cigars spread to Spain and Portugal and eventually France, most probably through Jean Nicot, the French ambassador to Portugal, who gave his name to nicotine. Later, the hobby spread to Italy and, after Sir Walter Raleigh's voyages to the Americas, to Britain. Smoking became familiar throughout Europe—in pipes in Britain—by the mid-16th century and, half a century later, tobacco started to be grown commercially in America. Tobacco was originally thought to have medicinal qualities, but there were some who considered it evil. It was denounced by Philip II of Spain and James I of England. [<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cigar#History>]

