

Legends:

- 1 Cellar with barrels in municipal brewery
- 2 Houses in the square Havlíčkovo náměstí
- 3 New Townhall (Old Magistrate's House)
- 4 5 Havlíčkovo náměstí square – drinking stand, well
- 6 New Townhall – interior
- 7 Old Townhall (brewery used to be in the rear wing)
- 8 Municipal brewery – 19th century
- 9 Dolní ulice street (breweries and malting plants used to be in houses before)
- 10 Havlíčkova ulička lane
- 11 Rear wings of houses in Horní street
- 12 Cellars of Old Townhall (formerly municipal)
- 13 Municipal brewery – 19th century
- 14 Municipal brewery – the present times

Golden times of breweries

Golden times of breweries began in the 16th century when there was the largest number of them in the town. Besides breweries and malt houses in individual houses with brewing privilege, there had already existed several larger breweries, too. These were better equipped and also enabled holders of the brewing privilege to brew their beer there. It was brewed using crumb, every brew was done by one of joint owners according to a certain order and rate that was not allowed to be exceeded. Charges to authorities were paid from each brew. Breweries were situated at the Old Magistrate's House and in the house below the town hall that time. Another brewery was found in the street Dolní by the municipal wall but it burnt down in 1626 together with four malt houses and was never re-established again. Next brewery used to stand in the street Horní, behind the houses No. 178 – 179, towards Rosmark (today's Smetanovo náměstí square). Beer had been brewed there by the early 18th century. The longest operational brewery was the so-called "lower" one – the town hall brewery that burnt down in 1834 though and brewing was not re-established in it anymore.



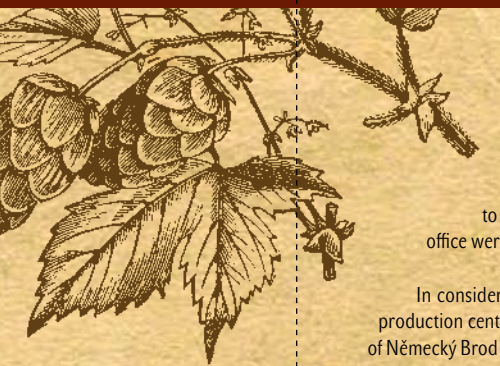
There had been efforts to concentrate all beer production into municipal breweries in Německý Brod, as well as in other towns, from the 16th century. Municipality successively bought private breweries (upper brewery in 1602, house with brewery next to town hall in 1608). In the course of time, production thus concentrated only in two breweries – the municipal brewery next to the town hall and the village brewery on the outskirts – so called Rozkošské or Spálenostránské.



Ingredients

Much like there were many breweries in Německý Brod, there were also numerous malt houses for malt production then, because every bigger house had its own malt house.

Primary commodities necessary for production of beer (wheat and barley) as well as hops were grown in the town's neighbourhood in the Middle Ages. Hop fields or hop gardens were in the property of houses privileged to brew beer. Most often, they were found at Prempír, at Bělohrad, in Vlkovsko, in Šprunk, but also in other places. As concerns primary commodities necessary for production of beer, burghers were basically self-sufficient



Production and Sale

Production and sale of beer has always been very profitable, that is why efforts to concentrate production in the hands of specialists (malsters) grew during centuries. Since the 15th century (although we have not had many reports from that time), attempts at production centralization had grown stronger. Malsters used to have great power and significant status in municipal administration that time, as evidenced by their heavy representation in the town council (e.g. there were seven malsters from the total of twelve councillors in the council in 1537). Still, more serious disputes with brewers had not been documented that time yet. They had not fully shown before the following century. Prestige of the craftsman-like brewing of beer faded out after the year 1620 when times of municipal and noble breweries began. At that time, the town acquired a title of a "free royal town" from the Majesty of Ferdinand III, Holy Roman Emperor, together with all burgher's privileges including brewing of beer (1637).

The contemporary events in the town evidenced that brewing of beer was still very lucrative that time. The 17th century was affected by disputes between malsters associated in the malsters' guild (founded in 1673) and burghers-brewers for the period of 50 years. We have got knowledge of this dispute from documents dated 1673 when it had already continued for several years. Malsters who went on dominating nearly the whole town council, strove for obtaining major rights for brewing of beer, even to the prejudice of brewing privilege holders. During that time, authorities attempted at accord several times (documented from 1673). The office affirmed the accord in the following year (1674) and determined rules of brewing of beer in the town (rotation of batch brew, quantity of barley for malt, price...). The dispute took probably a longer time because the next rule was issued as lately as in the year 1687, but neither this one settled the disputes, as evidenced by the statute by Joseph I, Holy Roman Emperor dated 1705, concerning tax payment including beer-brewing revenues. Constant disputes between malsters and brewers continued though, as evidenced by statutes dating back to the early 18th century (1707, 1708). The dispute was settled as lately as in the year 1720, under threat of punishment.

In consideration of technological requirements and technical development, production centralized only to municipal breweries in the course of time. Brewers of Německý Brod operated two breweries in the 18th century – the Burghers' (municipal) one and the village (so called Rozkošský or Spálenodvorský) one. Besides Německý Brod, breweries from wide neighbourhood were also members of the malting guild (in 1780). At the end of the 18th century, there were 90 "brewing privileges" conferred to individual houses, as results from the magistrate's report from 1799. This number had persisted till the early 20th century. Town magistrate undertook supervision of beer brewing by a regulation from the end of the 18th century. An inspector was established in order to supervise quality of beer, as well as an administrator charged with keeping accounts. Brewers supplied municipal breweries with necessary raw material (including wood) yearly and in advance, and the administrator "gave it out as needed for batch-brews". 29 barrels were filled up from one batch-brew and 44 batches were brewed per year, i.e. net profit from brewing of beer amounted to 3 050 gold coins.



Early in the 19th century (1808) brewers decided on rental not only of the Rozkošský Brewery but also of the burghers' brewery "under the town hall". Its yearly rent was 5 500 gold coins that time and the amount went up by and by. Even though brewing privilege holders decided to operate breweries on their own in 1820, they put this decision off due to shortage of money for several years and continued renting breweries. As lately as in the middle of the 19th century, this plan was finally implemented. At the same time, supervision of the magistrate finished in May of 1834 and further decision-making passed into the hands of beer brewing privilege holders. Unfortunately, a tragic event occurred a few days after this decision. A fire broke out in the rear part of the town hall (where a prison was situated) and destroyed not only the town hall itself and some houses in the square, but also the municipal brewery. It has never been restored in those premises again.

Therefore, brewing privilege holders decided to buy the former salt house in a public auction. It was a Bukovsky's house in the upper suburbs where gymnasium had been settled some time before. Thus a new chapter of Brod's brewing of beer began. Burghers' brewery has not left this building anymore and beer has been brewed there up to now. After necessary building conversions, production had conformed to the traditional technology originally. Nevertheless, technical equipment of the brewery had been already archaic and had not facilitated further growth anymore.



New technology of brewing of beer was implemented in Czech lands in the middle of the 19th century. The Burghers' Brewery in Pilsen adopted bottom fermentation of beer and became a pattern for other Czech breweries. So golden times of production of the Czech beer began, with industrial production of malt and beer as well as with new machinery. Neither the Burghers' Brewery in Německý Brod was backward. But necessary changes were made as lately as in the 70th of the 19th century, when the well-known businessman of Německý Brod – Vojtěch Weidenhoffer became a chairman of holders of the brewing privilege and Mr. Linhart became a brewer. The chairman brought off modernization of the brewery transforming it in a steam engine brewery in part, thus increasing total yield of beer. Reconstructed brewery was festively consecrated with huge attendance of the town's residents on 12 October, 1880. The brewery had flourished until the time when the brewer Linhart left it. It came down that time that no one had ever brewed so good beer anymore. The truth was that total yield went considerably down again. That is why an extraordinary general meeting on 17 March 1895 searched for a solution and altered the articles. The main change involved establishment of a new quadripartite board of directors in addition to the administrative committee, in order to manage the enterprise together with the chairman and the administrative committee. This new board of directors headed by Antonín Stolz took charge of the brewery in June, 1895. Their main task was wide reconstruction and modernization of the brewery at the turn of the 19th and the 20th centuries. Construction of a new malt-kiln was planned as well as a new fermentative department, cellars and cool rooms and later on reconstruction of a digester house, including a new steam engine with accessories. Thereby, the brewery obtained the most modern technology and turned competitive again.



20th century

The favourable development of the brewery in the 20th century was discontinued by World War I and World War II when necessary raw material as well as employees were missing. During the First Czechoslovak Republic, brewery developed and further means were invested – brewery was electrified and new equipment of the malt-kiln was installed. After World War II, burghers privileged to brew beer came back again, beer was demanded and production was rising. But national administration was instituted to the brewery in 1948; it was nationalized and became a part of the national enterprise Horácké pivovary. Descendants of brewing privilege holders (17 persons) regained property rights back in 1995 and the brewery turned into a joint stock company Měšťanský pivovar (Burghers' Brewery) Havlíčkův Brod, a.s. Thus brewing of beer in Havlíčkův Brod has remained at the hands of privileged holders again.

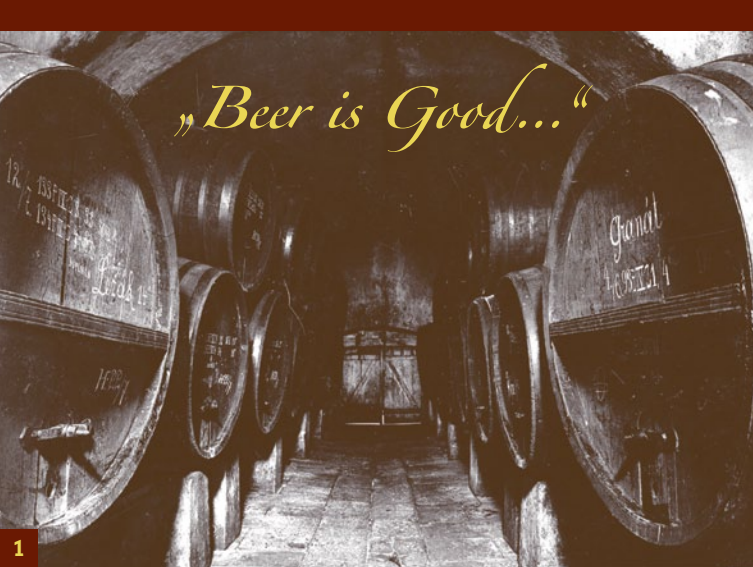


History of Brewing of Beer in Havlíčkův Brod

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History

Brewing of beer has signified prosperity for centuries. It was the way to wealth and power, not only for medieval burghers and medieval towns. Beer was and has been the most favourite alcoholic beverage of the Czechs up to now.

Otto's Encyclopaedia characterizes the importance of beer in this way: „Beer is an important delicacy and nourishment for a physically working man; if used reasonably, it has no harmful effects. Even if nutritional substances are scanty in beer, they are all contained in a very convenient form though...“. The fact is that beer used to be not only a favourite drink but also „a bread of the poor“ in the Middle Ages..

Nevertheless, history of beer has much deeper roots – it dates back to prehistoric times, as documented by archaeological finds. Beer is an ancient beverage and the principle of its preparation has remained essentially the same for centuries, only technological processes and equipment improved with historical development. Good water and malt (mainly from wheat or barley) have always composed the base of beer. Only later, hops and ale yeasts became part of it. Fairly primitive beer preparation was successively replaced by craft production in the Middle Ages, followed by industrial production in the 19th century. Beer had been already a well-known beverage in the antiquity, its brewing was documented in Mesopotamia in the 7th millennium BC and in Egypt that was regarded a cradle of beer's invention. At that time, beer was brewed only from barley malt, without hops but with various admixtures providing the beer with taste. Beer was not filtered. By the time of development of technological methods, beer brewing had been mainly a domain of women.



In our country, already the Celts – Boii brewed beer and, after them, Germanic tribes – Marcomanni and Quadi, as well as Slavic peoples were fond of beer. Czechs brought knowledge of hopped beer preparation to our lands.

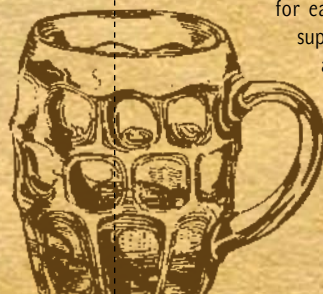
The oldest breweries belonged to monasteries in the Middle Ages, as evidenced by documents from the 10th and the 11th centuries. Hops planting was also documented in Czech lands in that time. Production of beer blossomed a lot in the 12th century when anyone was allowed to brew beer with no limits. Women brewed beer in households, by quite primitive methods. In medieval times, beer belonged to current life – it was not only a favourite everyday beverage but also the most ordinary „food eaten“ in the morning, at midday and in the evening. Soups, purees and other dishes were prepared from it and it also served as a revitalizing agent. White beer made from wheat malt was the cheapest one, used as an everyday drink instead of water. Dark, barley beers were stronger and were tapped in taverns. Medieval beer, unlike the nowadays one, was not filtered nor cooled and its durability was limited. Beer also became part of fixed natural duties – for the authorities and the governor, including tithes for the Church that had not been cancelled until 1848.

The change came on in the 13th century with origination of royal towns with number of privileges and benefits. One of the most important and financially most interesting privileges was the „brewing privilege“ (the privilege to brew beer) and the related „mile law“ (exclusive sale of beer within the circuit of one mile around the town). This way, brewing of beer got to craftsman-like production. Nevertheless, it was still brewed in houses but only in those conferred the brewing privilege. This privilege enabled everyone owning a house inside the town walls (thus being a rightful burgher) to brew and tap beer in his house. It was a very profitable job, yet limited by the number of houses, so that it involved only a closed domain of the wealthiest burghers soon. Brewing privilege was not related to a certain person but to the house and production of beer exploded very quickly. Since its production was simple as for necessary primary commodities but quite demanding for technological equipment (a malt kiln for drying the malt, copper cooking pan, barrels, tubs, beer fermentation and maturing tanks), it specialized soon. These craftsmen – maltsters and brewers associated in the guild, offered their service to burghers privileged to brew beer. Town breweries originated in the 13th century but their largest prosperity came as lately as in the 16th century.



Brewing privilege was originally conferred only to royal towns by the governor, later on also to liege towns by owners of manors, thus ensuring rate of profit from beer-brewing as well as all other food-processing crafts for the towns. However, rate of profit of these crafts in the towns depended on the „mile law“. No town brewing trade or inn was allowed to be located one mile around the town, thus ensuring sale of goods by the burghers, exclusive of any competition. So called „St. Wenceslas's Agreement“ issued by Louis II of Hungary (1517) tempered frequent disputes between towns and nobility for a short time and the situation settled down. Royal towns lost their exclusive right to brew beer and nobility was allowed to found breweries in their towns and manors.

The same historical development took place in our town, too. Německý Brod (today's Havlíčkův Brod) – originally a ford across the river Sázava (brod = ford) – profited from its advantageous position on the municipal trail – so-called Haberská, from Prague via Moravia to Austria. Although rapid development of the town in the 13th century was brought about by silver ore mining in the surroundings, crafts related to food production (butchers, bakers) flourished, just like in most of medieval towns, benefiting from the resulting population growth (especially miners), as evidenced by the market book from 1379–1404. But again, the most important craft was brewing and sale of beer. Originally, everyone was allowed to brew beer, later on only the houses privileged to brew. Most of them were in the centre and nearest surroundings in Horní and Dolní streets. In ground floors of houses, beer was sold in inns. Brewing privilege was sold together with the house, sometimes it was transferred from one house to another, thereby the purchase price of such house considerably increased. Only two brewers and eight maltsters were documented in the market book in our town that time. They dedicated themselves intensively to beer production. Nevertheless, brewing of beer was a „free“ trade, i.e. all burghers living inside town walls had right to brew beer, both for their own use and for sale. According to a market book, there were 33 houses in the town in 1379–1403 where settlers brewed beer for themselves as well as for sale. Besides the brewery, burghers had also their own malt house.



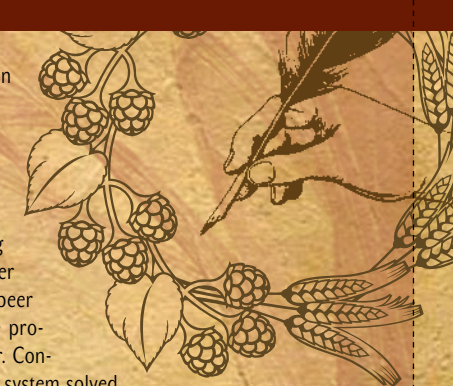
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The first brewery documented in written at Německý Brod is related to magistrate's house (today's new Town Hall – Nová radnice) and the town's magistrate. He represented authorities in the town and the owner of the manor rented a brewing trade to him as well. Increased water consumption during production of beer and its inflow to the brewery were problems for the magistrate or maltster. Construction of municipal water supply system solved this trouble. An agreement from 1362 dealing with construction of the first water pipe system in Německý Brod, one of the first municipal water mains in the medieval Czech lands, has been preserved in the archive. Huge fire (1340) when the at that time mostly wooden town was burnt down, probably advanced construction of the water supply system. The Magistrate Martin gained a privilege to build the water supply system from the contemporary owner of manor Čeněk z Lipé. Water was led by means of wooden piping from the well above the town



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and from ponds; piping was freeze-proof in winter. Within the town, it was led underground, taken off to a stone public fountain in the square and farther led by means of tubes underground to every brewery. The Magistrate committed himself in this agreement to connect including the newly arisen breweries in the future, receiving a charge from each barrel of beer for it. Thereby he had the sole trade of water supply but brewers were protected from abuse by means of a fixed charge for each batch of water (1 Prague groschen). In case of water supply breakdown or water shortage, the magistrate had to ensure alternative supply of water to breweries from the river Sázava. Water supply system constituted a technically excellent construction for that time and became a model for other Czech towns, too. Michal's heirs had still referred to these privileges, as evidenced in documents from 1439 and 1480.



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As mentioned above, owner of the town could decide on brewing of beer. He passed this right on to the town and received a fixed charge and considerable quantity of beer for each brewed barrel of beer.

One of the oldest breweries in Německý Brod was the brewery „at the old magistrate's house in the square“. At first it was rented to Brod's magistrates and acquired to the town's property in the year 1559. Old farmland books document the exchange of brewery's owners. Since then, municipality was the owner of the brewery and authorities – Burian Trčka from Lipá – only permitted its sale. Beer had been brewed at the old magistrate's house until the 19th century. It was connected with the renowned inn U Zlatého jelena (from the 16th century until the year 1750), afterwards the house was converted to barracks and the inn to a canteen for soldiers. At present, the municipality (New Town Hall – Nová radnice) resides in this building.

The Old Town Hall – originally a late-Gothic building from the 15th century – is a notable viewpoint of the square Havlíčkovo náměstí. It was rebuilt to renaissance style after a huge fire in 1662. That time, the fire destroyed not only the town hall but also the municipal brewery in its rear wing. Only brewing (today town hall) cellars have preserved by now.



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Rights related to brewing of beer changed in the 14th century. Liege towns were also conferred privileges of royal towns for an intervention of authorities and for payment. So Německý Brod also gained the privilege to brew beer on request



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by the town's owner Jindřich from Lipá from the King John of Bohemia in 1333. Foundation of a burghers' brewery was evidenced in this year, too. Later on, further Czech governors also affirmed the privilege to our town by a letter – Wenceslaus, King of the Romans (1386), George of Poděbrady (1464), Louis II of Hungary (1520) and Ferdinand I (1544). Not only the governor conferred privileges to burghers but also they gained advantages from the owners of the town – Mikuláš Trčka from Lipá affirmed them by a bill in 1452 and the following owners, counts from Thurn extended the privileges in 1588.

