Top of Form

[**Jib**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2545-jib/)

* Dread Pyrate
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_dread_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2545-jib/)
* Member
* 1,076 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Minneapolis, MN
* Interests:Piracy, stage combat, martial arts, reading, film, travel

[Posted March 9, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=347225) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=347225)

Took a look at a book entitled "Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs" by Jerry Webber. In the book Mr. Webber notes that people in the 1700's drank 3 times as much alcoholas we do today. He also mentions Marihuana Tax act of 1937 and says that the use of Marijuana stretches back thousands of years (page 18).

Made me think? Did Pirates enjoy something other than rum, wine, ale and beer from time to time?

[**Animal**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/91-animal/)

* Buccaneer
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_notorious_pyrate.gif
* [Animal](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/91-animal/)
* Member
* 903 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Treasure Coast, FL

[Posted March 9, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=347231) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=347231)

I would think that if they were in the company of local natives, what ever the custom was, they partook. Chewing coca leaves and chewing beetle nuts have been doone in South American countries for centuries.

Animal

[**Quartermaster James**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4887-quartermaster-james/)

* LUNATIC
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_scourge_o_the_7_seas.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4887-quartermaster-james/)
* Member
* 1,662 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Sailing the Islets of Langerhans
* Interests:Interests cannot be left blank, so the machine says.

[Posted March 10, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=347262) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=347262)

Animal said:

I would think that if they were in the company of local natives, what ever the custom was, they partook. Chewing coca leaves and chewing beetle nuts have been doone in South American countries for centuries.

Animal

I am very interested in your source material citing betel in South America.

[**Capt. Bo of the WTF co.**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2748-capt-bo-of-the-wtf-co/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_scourge_o_the_7_seas.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2748-capt-bo-of-the-wtf-co/)
* Member
* 2,339 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Spanish Louisiana - on the river Osage
* Interests:Many and varied.

[Posted March 10, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=347266) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=347266)

Hey, even Moses was known to burn some bush! :P

:P:P:P

Hadda do it. The devil made me!

Bo

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_pyrate_legend.gif
* [Fox](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)
* Moderator
* 2,564 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.  
    
  Shooting pirates.

[Posted March 10, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=347274) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=347274)

A Captain Knox spent several years in the East in the second half of the 17th century, and when he returned presented to the Royal Society a paper on the narcotic qualities (as opposed to medicinal, which had been known for yonks) of cannabis. Not evidence of pirates using it, but the knowledge was certainly there.

Additionally, it has been suggested (without proof AFAIK) that the 'medicine' demanded by Blackbeard off Charleston may have been laudanum, which also has narcotic qualities.

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_immortal_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)
* Admin
* 5,081 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

[Posted March 10, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=347284) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=347284)

Laudenum and various other recipes featuring opium were popular medicinally at this time. I don't know that people would regard them as recreational drugs per se. However, someone who was treated with them might find the concoction to be most pleasurable and try to get at them if the opportunity presented itself. Note that the opium was diluted in all of the drugs I have come across. There were many patent medicines and pain relief recipes (analgesics) that featured opiates. If I recall correctly, I believe laudenum usually consisted of no more than 25% opium. (Recipes for patent medicines varied widely.) I have found no period references to drug problems or recreational drug use thus far. This may be because it was not regarded as a problem or because it was understood as an abusive behavior. So all that leaves you is conjecture.

Smoking is rarely mentioned in most accounts, and when it is it is usually in reference to cargo being taken (tobacco). My feeling is that it was so common that comment seemed unnecessary. For the most part, it was not thought to be a harmful activity at this time; that is a modern concept. So, by extension, if sailors came across Indians in the New World smoking marijuana, they might have just regarded it as another form of tobacco - possibly one with different properties than what they were used to. They might have thought little more of it. Marijuana is technically not chemically addictive (in fact, many recreational drugs aren't), but it is slightly psychologically addictive if I remember my classes correctly. If you don't have any special association in your mind to the tobacco the Indians proffer and that which you get everywhere else, it wouldn't seem to me that there would be much ground for psychological addiction. Again, this is conjecture.

I have also read modern commentary about abuse of alcohol, which at least one author claimed to be a huge problem during period. Drinking excessively is commented on in just about every period account I have read. If you want to read more about alcoholism during period painted as a problematic behavior, I highly recommend the book *Hubbub: Filth, Noise and Stench in England, 1600-1770* by Emily Cockayne. She also talks about smoking, although the period evidence is not as compelling. (I don't believe she mentions drugs at all.)

[Note: edited erroneous references to cocaine and replaced them with the correct drug, opium. Thanks to Sjöröveren for pointing out my error.]

[**Sjöröveren**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1062-sj%C3%B6r%C3%B6veren/)

* Plunderer
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_plunderer.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1062-sj%C3%B6r%C3%B6veren/)
* Member
* 457 posts
* Location:Minnesota, Land of 10,000 Lakes and 1 mini-ocean
* Interests:Re-enactment, gradually working my way back from the 19th Century. I figure I'm in about 1700 right now. I specialize in the history of medicine. I like maps, and the general history of geography and geodesy. <br />And in case you're wondering, "Sjöröveren" is Swedish for "the sea rover." And it's supposed to be spelled "Sjörövaren" but I guess it's too late for that!

[Posted March 10, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=347286) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=347286)

Laudanum is an opiate - no cocaine in it. Cocaine, if memory serves, (doubtful at this time of the morning) was typical used by chewing the whole dried leaf, mixed with lime, wood ash, or some other mildly alkali substance. Still the way it is used today in the Andes. Cocaine as a recreational drug is quite recent - late 19th century I believe, when many plant-based medicines were being researched to find their active chemicals. Heroin, aspirin, nicotine and many other pharmaceuticals were discovered and/or synthesized around that time.

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_immortal_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)
* Admin
* 5,081 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

[Posted March 10, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=347287) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=347287)

My bad. It is indeed referred to as containing opiates in my references.

[**William Brand**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1471-william-brand/)

* Mercury Malefactor
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_immortal_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1471-william-brand/)
* Admin
* 8,884 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Logan, Utah
* Interests:My name is William Pace and I live and work as a graphic designer, illustrator and photographer in Northern Utah. I'm married to the lovely Tracy Pace and we have three children. In addition to all things art, I enjoy traveling and meeting new people from every walk of life. I've always been a fan of history, theology, and of course, Pyracy.  
    
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSkt-q-HihQ

[Posted March 10, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=347298) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=347298)

The term 'recreational' is a relatively modern term when applied to drugs of any kind, but the use of opiates was common enough socially to be considered relatively public in regions such as China and India. For example, Opium was used socially as early as the fifteenth century in those parts of the world, but it was not used 'widely' due to expense. Opium became popular enough in China throughout the 1600s that prohibition was introduced by 1729 and references to the use of opiates in the East can be found all over the place by many Chinese historians down through the ages.

This is all well and good for someone portraying a pirate in the Far East, but use of opium as we think of it in the West was limited to medicinal purposes such as laudanum from 1527. Opium dens would not arrive in force until the 1850s.

Now, if you want to talk about smoking tobacco of the South seas, you may wish to study madak (or madat), which was tobacco mixed with herbs that often contained amounts of opium. Madak was the most widespread addictive substance that pirates *might* have used if traveling to those parts of the world such as Java, China, Taiwan, India and the Philippines. Pirates who travelled to the South seas, such as Kidd, may have seen or even used madak, but I have not found a reference to it. It could be argued that trade would have brought madak outside of this region to other parts of the world, so watch for it as you read.

[**William Brand**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1471-william-brand/)

* Mercury Malefactor
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_immortal_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1471-william-brand/)
* Admin
* 8,884 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Logan, Utah
* Interests:My name is William Pace and I live and work as a graphic designer, illustrator and photographer in Northern Utah. I'm married to the lovely Tracy Pace and we have three children. In addition to all things art, I enjoy traveling and meeting new people from every walk of life. I've always been a fan of history, theology, and of course, Pyracy.  
    
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSkt-q-HihQ

[Posted March 10, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=347303) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=347303)

This is an excerpt from the book Narcotic Culture by Frank Dikötter, Lars Peter Laamann, Zhou Xun...

"The Spread of Madak *c.* 1660-1780

Engelbert Kampfer, a Westphalian physician working for the Dutch East India Company, recorded that the Javanese soaked their tobacco in water that made the head 'spin violently'. The opium required for this preparation quickly became the most precious traded commodity in Batavia. The first traders to introduce opium for smoking to China were probably the Dutch between 1624 and 1660, first to their trade posts in Taiwan, and from there to Fujin. During the tumultuous decades of the Ming-Qing transistion, opium (madak) smoking was confined to the Taiwan Strait, and not noted by the Qing authorities until Xaimen was captured in 1683.

Javanese opium was blended with roots of local plants and hemp, minced, boiled with water in copper pans and finally mixed with tobacco: this blend is called madak. The mixture was prepared by the owners of smoking houses and fetched a prices significantly higher than for pure tobacco. Opium house owners in Taiwan also provided the smoking implement: a bamboo tube with a filter made of coir fibers produced from local coconut palms. Early reports from Taiwan indicate that they often offered the first smoke of madak free, serving copious amount of appetizers, food, and desserts. Travelers to Fujin and Taiwan observed that honey, candy and fruits were eaten as the opium was budding and crackling above the lamp. Contemporary observers such as Zhu Jingying also mentioned the opium (*yapian*) originated from parts of Southeast Asia which correspond to Indonesia and the Philippines today. The same author described the first opium pipes: made of tobacco, round, slender and with a fine opening, with a mouthpiece made of china clay. The substance was smoked with a hollow pot made of yellow clay, which was used to cook the opium. While the cleaning tool and the opium box were made of bamboo, opium paste scrapers were based on either iron or bamboo, flat or curved.

Althought these early reports were condemnatory, the habit of smoking madak spread throughout the coastal provinces of South China, even though never exceeding the popularity of tobacco. A precise chronology is not possible in the absence of reliable source material. The first references to opium smoking date from the early eighteenth century and come from Fujin and Guangdong, the same ports of entry as for tobacco: 'The opium is heated in a small copper pan until it turns into a very thinck paste, which is then mixed with tobacco. When the mixture is dried, it can be used for smoking by means of a bamboo pipe, while fibres are added for easier inhalation. There are private opium houses where people gather to lie on couches and smoke in turns by passing the pipe around. This carries on till late at night and goes on night after night without a break' Another description is provided in a memorial sent to the Yongzheng emperor in the 1720s:

Opium (*yapian*) is produced overseas, and the foreign merchants who import it as medicine (*yaocai*) derive a lucrative business from this trade, in particular in the Fujianese districts of Xiamen and Taiwan. Shameless rascals (*wulai guntu*) lure the sons of good families into [the habit] for their own profit. The opium is boiled down to a paste and blended into tobacco (*yan*) in order to produce smoking opium (*yapianyan*, i.e. *madak*). Privately run inns are established, where [smokers] congregate at night, only to disperse at dawn (*ye ju xiao san*), leading to licentious behavior. The truth is that youngsters become corrupted (*xie*) by smoking (*xi*) it until their lives collapse, their families' livelihood vanishes, and nothing is left but trouble. If one is intent on extirpating this evil (*hai*), one must tackle it at the root by ordering the imperial officials of Fujin and Guangdong to be strict in prohibiting the trade. Strict legal measures...will prevent any resurgence of the opium trade and lead to the closure of private opium houses."

There's a little more, but I'm tired of typing it up.

[**Iron Jon**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/5756-iron-jon/)

* Plunderer
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_plunderer.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/5756-iron-jon/)
* Member
* 472 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Palm Bay, FL
* Interests:anything that keeps me busy for a while...

[Posted March 10, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=347306) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=347306)

As far as the widespread chewing or use of coca leaves and cocaine goes -

Philip II (1556-1598) of Spain issued a decree recognizing the coca as essential to the well-being of the Andean Indians but urged missionaries to end its religious use. The Spanish are believed to have effectively encouraged use of coca by an increasing majority of the native population to increase their labor output and tolerance for starvation.

Coca was first introduced to Europe in the 16th century, but did not become popular until the mid-19th century, with the publication of an influential paper by Dr. Paolo Mantegazza praising its stimulating effects on cognition. This led to invention of cocawine and the first production of pure cocaine.

The active ingredient (an alkaloid) from the coca plant (erythroxylum) was first isolated by a chemist named Albert Niemann. In 1860 he gave the compound the name cocaine.

Cocawine (an alcoholic beverage that combined wine and cocaine, developed in 1863) and other coca-containing preparations were widely sold as patent medicines and tonics, with claims of a wide variety of health benefits. The original version of Coca-cola was among these.

[**Rumba Rue**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/5984-rumba-rue/)

* Immortal Pyrate
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_immortal_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/5984-rumba-rue/)
* Member
* 7,270 posts
* Gender:Female

[Posted March 10, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=347312) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=347312)

I can tell you that back then the marijuana grown was not very good and I suspect you would have only gotten a light buzz at best. Today's pot which has had the THC triple in specially grown pot strains that now exist and many can give you a whole new feeling in just one puff. smiley_aaxs.gif

[**Iron Bess**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/232-iron-bess/)

* Stynky was Already Bleeding Before I . . .
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_pyrate_legend.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/232-iron-bess/)
* Moderator
* 3,503 posts
* Gender:Female

[Posted March 10, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=347345) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=347345)

Cocawine (an alcoholic beverage that combined wine and cocaine, developed in 1863) and other coca-containing preparations were widely sold as patent medicines and tonics, with claims of a wide variety of health benefits. The original version of Coca-cola was among these.

(Ahem... holding her soda glass aloft and singing the old stand-by...)

\*Thing go better with Coke!\* :wacko:

[**Quartermaster James**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4887-quartermaster-james/)

* LUNATIC
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_scourge_o_the_7_seas.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4887-quartermaster-james/)
* Member
* 1,662 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Sailing the Islets of Langerhans
* Interests:Interests cannot be left blank, so the machine says.

[Posted March 10, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=347352) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=347352)

Rumba Rue said:

I can tell you that back then the marijuana grown was not very good and I suspect you would have only gotten a light buzz at best. Today's pot which has had the THC triple in specially grown pot strains that now exist and many can give you a whole new feeling in just one puff. smiley_aaxs.gif

I wonder about this. Certainly the recreational vegetation of a few decades back pales in comparison to what is available today (or so I am given to understand). But can one necessarily extrapolate from American ditch weed of the 50's to anything from Asia a few centuries ago? Cannabis, Hashish and cannabis extracts have a long history of cultivation and use as drugs. Their horticulture and preparation were well refined centuries before Puritan and Victorian morals, and the Harrison Narcotic Act. I suspect what we have here is a situation far more akin to the micro-brew revolution: the beer available now is much stronger and tastier than what was common in America four or five decades ago, but that is not to say strong and good beer was unknown to the world before the 80's.

[**Salty**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3581-salty/)

* Dread Pyrate
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_dread_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3581-salty/)
* Member
* 1,012 posts
* Location:back in the mountains of westren pa...good to be back home
* Interests:maker o pots, tankards, and rum jugs. the natural world as it be and history that was not written by the winners.

[Posted March 10, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=347353) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=347353)

mescaline, cocaine, opiates......god grows his own, no wonder europeans liked the "new world" so much.

[**Quartermaster James**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4887-quartermaster-james/)

* LUNATIC
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_scourge_o_the_7_seas.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4887-quartermaster-james/)
* Member
* 1,662 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Sailing the Islets of Langerhans
* Interests:Interests cannot be left blank, so the machine says.

[Posted March 10, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=347355) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=347355)

Sjöröveren said:

Heroin, aspirin, nicotine and many other pharmaceuticals were discovered and/or synthesized around that time.

Yes, I believe it was very late in the 1800's when Bayer marketed its new non-addictive morphine substitute: Heroin!

[**Jib**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2545-jib/)

* Dread Pyrate
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_dread_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2545-jib/)
* Member
* 1,076 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Minneapolis, MN
* Interests:Piracy, stage combat, martial arts, reading, film, travel

[Posted March 10, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=347366) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=347366)

I forgot about Hash! And that was popular in the Middle East since the Dark Ages!

[**Jib**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2545-jib/)

* Dread Pyrate
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_dread_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2545-jib/)
* Member
* 1,076 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Minneapolis, MN
* Interests:Piracy, stage combat, martial arts, reading, film, travel

[Posted March 10, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=347367) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=347367)

How about "Snuff"? That appeared at about this time did it not?

[**William Brand**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1471-william-brand/)

* Mercury Malefactor
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_immortal_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1471-william-brand/)
* Admin
* 8,884 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Logan, Utah
* Interests:My name is William Pace and I live and work as a graphic designer, illustrator and photographer in Northern Utah. I'm married to the lovely Tracy Pace and we have three children. In addition to all things art, I enjoy traveling and meeting new people from every walk of life. I've always been a fan of history, theology, and of course, Pyracy.  
    
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSkt-q-HihQ

[Posted March 10, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=347383) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=347383)

Jib said:

How about "Snuff"? That appeared at about this time did it not?

Snuff was first observed by Europeans in one of Columbus' voyages. It was used during the 1700s, but enjoyed less popularity than smoking tobacco.

[**Capt. Bo of the WTF co.**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2748-capt-bo-of-the-wtf-co/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_scourge_o_the_7_seas.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2748-capt-bo-of-the-wtf-co/)
* Member
* 2,339 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Spanish Louisiana - on the river Osage
* Interests:Many and varied.

[Posted March 10, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=347402) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=347402)

The THC levels in canabis are a direct result of the soil, nutrients, and climate conditions in which it grows, as well as the genetics of the particular strain you are working with, but I don't know anything about that. :rolleyes:

Bo

[**Cannibal Chrispy**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10529-cannibal-chrispy/)

* Auspicious Auctioneer
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_dread_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10529-cannibal-chrispy/)
* Member
* 1,221 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:South Florida

[Posted March 11, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=347425) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=347425)

umm... uh.... I forgot what I was gonna say.

[**Jib**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2545-jib/)

* Dread Pyrate
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_dread_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2545-jib/)
* Member
* 1,076 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Minneapolis, MN
* Interests:Piracy, stage combat, martial arts, reading, film, travel

[Posted March 11, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=347439) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=347439)

I know they found plenty of clay pipes in the ruins of Port Royal. I wonder if they found anything else that could have been used in recreational drug usage?

[**Quartermaster James**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4887-quartermaster-james/)

* LUNATIC
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_scourge_o_the_7_seas.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4887-quartermaster-james/)
* Member
* 1,662 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Sailing the Islets of Langerhans
* Interests:Interests cannot be left blank, so the machine says.

[Posted March 11, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=347444) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=347444)

Jib said:

I know they found plenty of clay pipes in the ruins of Port Royal. I wonder if they found anything else that could have been used in recreational drug usage?

Well, mugs, cups, glasses, and goblets, could have been used for beer, wine, and spirits (since you include tobacco - for which the clay pipes - as a recreational drug, then alcohol must likewise qualify, no?)

[**Jib**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2545-jib/)

* Dread Pyrate
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_dread_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2545-jib/)
* Member
* 1,076 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Minneapolis, MN
* Interests:Piracy, stage combat, martial arts, reading, film, travel

[Posted March 12, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=347620) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=347620)

I assume that everyone drank more than they do today. Of course Pirates on a bender would go through a lot of the juice!

[**Rumba Rue**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/5984-rumba-rue/)

* Immortal Pyrate
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_immortal_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/5984-rumba-rue/)
* Member
* 7,270 posts
* Gender:Female

[Posted March 13, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=347680) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=347680)

*Hmmmm.....sounds like some of the pirate parties I've been to.* B)

Bottom of Form

* [1](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&page=1)
* [2](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&page=2)

[**sutlerjon**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10534-sutlerjon/)

* Plunderer
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_plunderer.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10534-sutlerjon/)
* Member
* 491 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Orlando - ish, Fl

[Posted March 14, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=347802) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=347802)

Cannibal Chrispy said:

umm... uh.... I forgot what I was gonna say.

wow, I forgot what yoo was gonna sayhncjk.aLCD;TPFD; two.

)COUGH ..... cough ...... (

pass me yur liter, nEll ....... sorry.. Krispy ... not you .....

my skull

Wait, Sterling, (dang pirate hunters) you pulled me over .....

You gonna eat that??

Why is everyone out to get us? Better go Hide out somewhere.

My mouth is really dry .... almost cottony...

Better drink more rum the water can make you very ill in these days (although I won't understand why for a couple hundred more years), when I make it in to alcohol I don't get sick ...... that lasts for days ..... except for a little while until I don't know why I'm waking up smellin' like puke and in someone else hammock ..... any idea why that happens??

[**NVBarbossa**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3816-nvbarbossa/)

* Ship's Master
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_shipsmaster.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3816-nvbarbossa/)
* Member
* 127 posts
* Location:Hopefully soon to be spat out of a place that has the same zip code as Hell itself !

[Posted March 14, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=347837) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=347837)

MMMMMM Betel nut, swallows the red juice in his mouth and gets even more of a buzz and a warm feeling going B), it is a thng you must try. But be careful, too much lime and it will burn the mouth badly. :blink:

[**Quartermaster James**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4887-quartermaster-james/)

* LUNATIC
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_scourge_o_the_7_seas.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4887-quartermaster-james/)
* Member
* 1,662 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Sailing the Islets of Langerhans
* Interests:Interests cannot be left blank, so the machine says.

[Posted March 15, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=347846) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=347846)

NVBarbossa said:

MMMMMM Betel nut, swallows the red juice in his mouth and gets even more of a buzz and a warm feeling going B), it is a thng you must try. But be careful, too much lime and it will burn the mouth badly. :blink:

Hmm, well, now that there's shared interest, let us elucidate:

The nut is Areca Catechu, the leaves of Piper Betle. The are commonly used together, along with lime (the mineral, not the fruit), and more recently tobacco.

Areca nuts can sometimes be found in certain Asian grocers, labeled Palm Nuts, in the frozen section. The fresh betel leaves are sometimes in the produce section. The dried leaves are not recommended.

[**Jib**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2545-jib/)

* Dread Pyrate
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_dread_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2545-jib/)
* Member
* 1,076 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Minneapolis, MN
* Interests:Piracy, stage combat, martial arts, reading, film, travel

[Posted March 16, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=348026) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=348026)

Anyone know if they chewed tabacco as a recreational drug or if the desired method of consumption was smoking?

[**Rumba Rue**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/5984-rumba-rue/)

* Immortal Pyrate
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_immortal_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/5984-rumba-rue/)
* Member
* 7,270 posts
* Gender:Female

[Posted March 16, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=348067) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=348067)

sutlerjon said:

Cannibal Chrispy said:

umm... uh.... I forgot what I was gonna say.

wow, I forgot what yoo was gonna sayhncjk.aLCD;TPFD; two.

)COUGH ..... cough ...... (

pass me yur liter, nEll ....... sorry.. Krispy ... not you .....

my skull

Wait, Sterling, (dang pirate hunters) you pulled me over .....

You gonna eat that??

Why is everyone out to get us? Better go Hide out somewhere.

My mouth is really dry .... almost cottony...

Better drink more rum the water can make you very ill in these days (although I won't understand why for a couple hundred more years), when I make it in to alcohol I don't get sick ...... that lasts for days ..... except for a little while until I don't know why I'm waking up smellin' like puke and in someone else hammock ..... any idea why that happens??

ROTFLMAF!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! smiley_aaxs.gif

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_pyrate_legend.gif
* [Fox](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)
* Moderator
* 2,564 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.  
    
  Shooting pirates.

[Posted March 19, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=348512) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=348512)

From the miscellaneous papers of Royal Society scientist Robert Hooke, published after his death, 1726.

'[Cannabis] grows very common in India, and the Vertues, or quality thereof, are there very well known; and the Use thereof (tho' the effects are very strange, and, at first hearing, frightful enough) is very general and frequent: and the Person, from whom I received it [East India Company captain Robert Knox], hath made very many Trials of it, on himself, with very good Effect. 'Tis called, by the Moors, Gange, by the Chingalese, Comsa, and by the Portugals, Bangue. The Dose of it is about as much as may fill a common Tobacco-Pipe, the Leaves and Seeds being dried first, and pretty finely powdered. This Power being chewed and swallowed, or washed down, by a small Cup of Water, doth in a short Time, quite take away the Memory and Understanding; so that the Patient understands not, nor remembereth any Thing that he seeth, heareth, or doth, in that Extasie, but becomes, as it were, a mere Natural, being unable to speak a Word of Sense; yet he is very merry, and laughs, and sings, and speaks Words without any Coherence, not knowing what he saith or doth; yet he is not giddy, or drunk, but walks and dances, and sheweth many odd Tricks; after a little Time he falls asleep, and sleepeth very soundly and quietly; and when he wakes, he finds himself mightily refresh'd, and exceeding hungry.'

Hooke met Knox in 1681, and delivered the above address to the Royal Society in December 1689.

[**Jib**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2545-jib/)

* Dread Pyrate
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_dread_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2545-jib/)
* Member
* 1,076 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Minneapolis, MN
* Interests:Piracy, stage combat, martial arts, reading, film, travel

[Posted March 25, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=349384) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=349384)

I always thought "Mary Jane" was native to the New World... I guess the mighty herb is around the globe!

[**Quartermaster James**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4887-quartermaster-james/)

* LUNATIC
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_scourge_o_the_7_seas.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4887-quartermaster-james/)
* Member
* 1,662 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Sailing the Islets of Langerhans
* Interests:Interests cannot be left blank, so the machine says.

[Posted March 25, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=349422) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=349422)

To the best of my knowledge, Cannabis is native to central Asia and not native to the Americas.

Early on (1580's) a "hemp-like" plant was noted in what would become Virginia, but it proved to be *Acnida cannabinum*, a species of Dogbane, not *Cannabis* ([Schaffer Library of Drug Policy](http://www.druglibrary.org/schaffer/hemp/history/first12000/4.htm)).

Any resources documenting that Cannabis was not first brought to the Americas by colonists would be greatly appreciated.

**Edited March 25, 2009 by Quartermaster James**

[**MarkG**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10527-markg/)

* Pyrate Captain
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_pyrate_captain.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10527-markg/)
* Member
* 587 posts
* Location:Ohio

[Posted March 29, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=349757) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=349757)

Jib said:

I know they found plenty of clay pipes in the ruins of Port Royal. I wonder if they found anything else that could have been used in recreational drug usage?

The pipes were almost certainly tobacco pipes. Tobacco was very popular at the time. Keep in mind that the tobacco of the time had a much higher nicotine content than modern tobacco so smoking a pipe would give you a nicotine buzz.

Several years ago someone I know bought up the crop of period tobacco that they grow at Saint Mary's City. He and a friend sold it as period twists. He said that he got a contact high just from handling the stuff. Someone else I know tried smoking it and said that he was just about talking to spirits from that stuff. I don't smoke but I have one of the twists for my display of period items.

Mark

[**Cannibal Chrispy**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10529-cannibal-chrispy/)

* Auspicious Auctioneer
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_dread_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10529-cannibal-chrispy/)
* Member
* 1,221 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:South Florida

[Posted March 30, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=349771) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=349771)

I wish someone with access would test some of these pipes, I am sure you would find more residue than just tobacco.

[**Rumba Rue**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/5984-rumba-rue/)

* Immortal Pyrate
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_immortal_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/5984-rumba-rue/)
* Member
* 7,270 posts
* Gender:Female

[Posted March 31, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=349974) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=349974)

Cannibal Chrispy said:

I wish someone with access would test some of these pipes, I am sure you would find more residue than just tobacco.

No doubt.........and it was probably rolled up and sold as hash/hash oil. psychoeyes-vi.gif

[**Matty Bottles**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/949-matty-bottles/)

* Notorious Pyrate
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_notorious_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/949-matty-bottles/)
* Member
* 891 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Milwaukee, WI
* Interests:Writing, Art, Spending exorbinant amounts of money on action figures, rum, murder.

[Posted March 31, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=349978) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=349978)

Cannibal Chrispy said:

I wish someone with access would test some of these pipes, I am sure you would find more residue than just tobacco.

I'm not sure how trustworthy this is, but it looks as though somebody has.

[Did Shakespeare Inhale?](http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2001/03/01/print/main275587.shtml)

[**Jib**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2545-jib/)

* Dread Pyrate
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_dread_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2545-jib/)
* Member
* 1,076 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Minneapolis, MN
* Interests:Piracy, stage combat, martial arts, reading, film, travel

[Posted April 6, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=350870) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=350870)

Besides tobacco which drugs are native to the New World? The cocca leaf I would guess but was that well known?

[**John Maddox Roberts**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/334-john-maddox-roberts/)

* First Mate
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_1st_mate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/334-john-maddox-roberts/)
* Member
* 272 posts

[Posted April 7, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=351091) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=351091)

Peyote is native to the New World and known to its natives, but as far as I know it grows only in northern Mexico and the American Southwest. The psilocybin mushroom grows here, too.

[**Jib**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2545-jib/)

* Dread Pyrate
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_dread_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2545-jib/)
* Member
* 1,076 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Minneapolis, MN
* Interests:Piracy, stage combat, martial arts, reading, film, travel

[Posted April 7, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=351102) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=351102)

Peyote is cactus-like plant?

[**Quartermaster James**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4887-quartermaster-james/)

* LUNATIC
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_scourge_o_the_7_seas.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4887-quartermaster-james/)
* Member
* 1,662 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Sailing the Islets of Langerhans
* Interests:Interests cannot be left blank, so the machine says.

[Posted April 7, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=351106) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=351106)

Jib said:

Peyote is cactus-like plant?

Yes. It is probably the most well known of mescaline producing plants.

Jib said:

Besides tobacco which drugs are native to the New World? The cocca leaf I would guess but was that well known?

Well, it seems you have two different questions here:

1)Which drugs are native to the New World?

2)When did they become well known?

Ayahuasca is a New World drug, but I can't cite any period references to it. Same too *Salvia Divinorum*. Actually, there are a lot of New World plants to consider; too many to list here.

If you include Polynesia as New World, then you also have Kava to consider. Again, I have no period sources to offer.

There are other New World plants that were used medicinally, such as Pau d'Arco (*Tabebuia avellanedae*) and the popular *Echinacea Purpurea*, but I gather your interest is in recreational drugs. This distinction is worthy of consideration in its own right. For example, I don't believe traditional uses of Peyote and Ayahuasca are properly considered recreational, whereas traditional Kava use might be.

Chocolate, of course, is a New World drug.

**Edited April 7, 2009 by Quartermaster James**

[**Jib**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2545-jib/)

* Dread Pyrate
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_dread_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2545-jib/)
* Member
* 1,076 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Minneapolis, MN
* Interests:Piracy, stage combat, martial arts, reading, film, travel

[Posted April 11, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=351653) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=351653)

Chocolate is a very good recreational drug! Thanks for the reminder!

I believe the Aztecs drank chocolate mixed with vanilla.

[**William Brand**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1471-william-brand/)

* Mercury Malefactor
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_immortal_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1471-william-brand/)
* Admin
* 8,884 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Logan, Utah
* Interests:My name is William Pace and I live and work as a graphic designer, illustrator and photographer in Northern Utah. I'm married to the lovely Tracy Pace and we have three children. In addition to all things art, I enjoy traveling and meeting new people from every walk of life. I've always been a fan of history, theology, and of course, Pyracy.  
    
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSkt-q-HihQ

[Posted April 11, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=351655) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=351655)

Jib said:

Peyote is cactus-like plant?

No. Peyote is a cactus-like, technocolor train wreck in slow motion in 3, sometimes 4-D.

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_immortal_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)
* Admin
* 5,081 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

[Posted August 17, 2014](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=417136) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=417136)

I was reading my copy of Dr. Professor Señor E.T. Fox's *Pirates In Their Own Words* and I came across this quote in the court testimony of Thomas (middle name probably Michael) Bagley,

"...afterwards they sailed to the Coast near Cape Commoroome [Footnote 94: Cape Cormorin], and there in or abt the month of Dec: 1698 they found a Moorish Vessel abt 200 Tonns towing a shoare with boates, whereupon some of ye said ship the Pellicanns Company went off in their Boate and brought her off, the said ship having some **Opium** and Cotton aboard, and because their owne ship was leaky they burnt her and

\_\_

went all aboard the sd Moorish ship, and they **sold the goods abd her** to the Natives of the Coast of Commoroome, and this Examinate had abt Fifty peeces of Eight for his share..." [Emphasis mine] (Fox, p. 94-5)

Now, admittedly, this is a court testimony, but I find two things of interest here.  
1. There's nothing about celebrating afterwards, which you sometimes see when they take a cargo of liquor.

2. They simply refer to the opium and cotton as "the goods ab[oar]d her", which is not the way they seem to regard liquor.  
  
While I wouldn't call it proof positive that drugs weren't used recreationally (it's much harder to prove a lack of something than it is it's presence - the dog that didn't bark and all that), it at least suggests that opium was regarded as just another cargo.

[**Littleneckhalfshell**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4-littleneckhalfshell/)

* Plunderer
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_plunderer.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4-littleneckhalfshell/)
* Member
* 390 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Hudson Valley, NY
* Interests:Blacksmithing, hunting, fishing, stuff.......

[Posted August 17, 2014](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=417141) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=417141)

Did I miss something, or misunderstand the direction of this thread?

Is not Cannabis just the more potent member of the Hemp family, which was a major commodity in the days of sail ?

So it should have been somewhat present in many societies.

But did everyone just miss a very recreational drug that was mixed with alcohol all the time by pirates? Nutmeg!

<http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/wordofmouth/2011/sep/06/hallucinogenic-foods>

""Even without the addition of an illegal substance many foods have psychotropic qualities, some more frequently exploited than others. In 1946, prior to his conversion to Islam, [Malcolm X](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malcolm_X) was serving time in Charlestown prison. In the early years of his incarceration, Malcolm X, like so many other convicts of the time, found escape in the most apparently unlikely place - a penny matchbox full of nutmeg. In [The Autobiography of Malcolm X](http://www.guardianbookshop.co.uk/BerteShopWeb/viewProduct.do?ISBN=9780141185439) he wrote: "I first got high in Charlestown on nutmeg. My cellmate … bought from kitchen worker inmates penny matchboxes full of stolen nutmeg … stirred into a glass of cold water, a penny matchbox full of nutmeg had the kick of three or four reefers."""

[**jendobyns**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11262-jendobyns/)

* Pyrate Captain
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_pyrate_captain.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11262-jendobyns/)
* Member
* 562 posts
* Gender:Female
* Location:Baltimore
* Interests:too numerous to mention, really. Period foodways, baroque dance, material culture, etc., etc.

[Posted August 17, 2014](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=findComment&comment=417142) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14441-recreational-drugs-1600s-1700s/&do=reportComment&comment=417142)

On 4/11/2009 at 7:41 PM, Jib said:

Chocolate is a very good recreational drug! Thanks for the reminder!

I believe the Aztecs drank chocolate mixed with vanilla.

Chocolate was mixed with a number of things, including chili in the new world. Not sure when the vanilla gets mixed in, I don't think it was a New World spice (books are still in storage, long saga, needless to say much alcohol is being consumed)

A native plant that was adopted by Europeans fairly early, is Jimson Weed/datura. Besides it's medicinal uses, it is quite hallucinogenic, causing delirium, has been (and probably still is) used ceremonially to induce visions and can be toxic way to easily to be used casually. During Bacon's Rebellion it was mixed with some food the occupying forces were consuming, the results weren't pretty. It's impossible to eradicate with herbicides as the seeds are so genetically diverse there is no way to target them all. Besides the use as a weapon of sorts during Bacon's Rebellion, I don't know if there are references to it in the GAoP, but it might be worth checking.

**Edited August 17, 2014 by jendobyns**