

## Belgian Tasting Notes, October 2000

*Bill Coleman:* This is compiled from notes taken by Warren Becker and I during our visit to Belgium in October 2000. We had been there three previous times, and decided to document the bars and beers as closely as we could. We pre-printed sheets with the same categories as listed in the charts below. It did make for a few gawking looks as we scribbled down notes on our geeky sheets from a few locals, but they would probably have been gawking as us anyway, because of the way that we sniff the beers and made pretentious comments about them--assuming they understood what we said! Actually, for the most part, we got along fine just speaking English, especially in Flanders. Anyway, the notes are entered pretty much as they were in our charts below. Sometimes they were more detailed than other times; obviously, drinking a few big-bodied Belgian ales can have some influence on your abilities to take coherent notes! I will make occasional notes to fill in a few missing details.

At the beginning of the trip, I arrived in Brussels by myself, on Monday October 9, having on Sunday enjoyed an Aventinus tasting at the Ginger Man in NYC. It was about 8:00 when I arrived in Brussels. I immediately took a train to Ghent, which took about an hour. I arrived at the Hotel Flandria, where I stayed for 3 nights by myself-by the way the cost for those three nights was only about \$100. The hotel is located at Barrestrat 3, only a few blocks from the Vrijdagmarkt Square, which you will note below was a center for much of the pub crawling I did during my visit there. At this point of my visit, I was on my own, travelling by foot or occasionally by trolley or bus, and I have to admit I drank all of these beers by myself! After the first day, I realized that I was trying a little too hard, and slowed down a bit.

Time	Bar	Address, Directions	Warren's description of bar	Bill's description of the bar.	beer	brewery	alc. %	style	bottle or draft	Bf price	Warren's Evaluation of Beer	Bill's Evaluation of Beer
Monday, October 9, 2000												
10:30 am	Brasserie Café des Arts	Schouwburgstraat 18 Ghent Quite a ways south and west of the hotel I was staying at which was near the Vrijdagmarkt Square.	Warren had not yet arrived.	First stop on the trip. I went there because it was the earliest place to open, and on arriving in Ghent I wanted to get started on my trip. Nice, woody bar, with wicker chairs. Serves food, including pannekoken, but the kitchen wasn't ready yet when I arrived. Odd little sweet, weird crackers with the beer. Nice looking place. I would've like to try the food, but was impatient with the beer selection.	<i>Poperinge Hommelbier</i>	Van Eecke	7.5	Strong pale ale.	bottle	90	Not applicable.	Great beer to start the trip. Fresh, vibrant, but pour was messy, with too much yeast.
11:30 am	St. Tropez	Brabantdam 164 Ghent For my first visit, I had to walk a long way along Woodrowwilsonplier/ Zuidstationstraat. Actually, from the hotel, it was a quick bus ride or walk down Brabantdam, as I found out later.	Not applicable.	The most important bar in this list not in the Tim Webb guide. Very impressive looking with brick walls, wooden tables, and a fireplace. Also an covered outdoor terrace. Very attentive bartender, Sophia. Peanuts servers as snack. They have many old bottles as decoration. at 12:20, lunchtime, there was a large crowd of teenagers, mostly girls, drinking soda and having snacks. I believe there is a school nearby. They also have live music (boogie-woogie piano) on Wednesday nights at 10:00 pm, which I will go back to check. Over 100 bottles, weak only in lambics; otherwise, very good selection.	<i>La Galoise Bruine</i>	Du Bocq	9	Strong Dark Ale	bottle	115	Not applicable.	Fairly clean. Malty, chewy, yeast subdued.
					<i>Witkap Stimlo</i>	Slaghmuylder	6.2	Pale Ale	bottle	100	Not applicable.	Malty. I am a little congested, so did not get strong hops I was told were in this beer, Somewhat wheat beer-like in flavor.
					<i>Orval</i>	Orval	5.2	Orval	bottle	100	Not applicable.	Fragrant, with big, refreshing hops. Poured very carefully.
1:29 pm	Waterhuise an de Bierkant	Groentenmarkt 9 Ghent A few blocks north of the square.	Not applicable.	Another attractive brick and wicker bar. Rough-hewn, rustic furniture, full of character. I am having a great time at this return to Ghent, though the lack of sleep (I cannot sleep on planes) and jet lag is starting to catch up with me, explaining my brief visit. Note: They had Gulden Draak on draft, though I wasn't up to drinking it now.	<i>Girardin Gueuze Black Label</i>	Girardin	5	Gueuze Lambic	bottle	135	Not applicable.	The traditional, unfiltered black label. I can smell it from across the table. Delicious, sour, some ropiness, bret and acetic flavors in balance.
Note: after this visit, I went back to the hotel room and took an unplanned nap, my only one of the trip, for about 3 hours.												
6:24 pm	Dulle Griet	50 Vrijdagmarkt Ghent Just a few blocks north of the hotel.	Not applicable.	A great-looking bar. Once again, wood and brick, but infested with lots of wild-looking breweriana, and puppets. The puppets hang from the ceiling. There are also wheels on the ceiling. Lindeman's barrels serve as tables. Has a back area with a window, sort of a beer garden, and an upstairs area. A customer orders a draft house beer, served in a large, kwak-like yard of ale, and they go through a unique ceremony: the customer's shoe is but in a basket which is hauled to the ceiling, presumably as security for the glass! I am still a bit fatigued from my trip. It is now raining outside.	<i>Katpitol Watou Dubble</i>	Van Eecke	7	Dubbel	bottle	105	Not applicable.	Malty, clean, chewy beer. Very good shape.
					<i>Ter Dolen Blonde</i>	De Dool	6.1	Blonde Ale	draft	90	Not applicable.	Clean, golden and refreshing. Crisp and hoppy.

@ 8:00 PM	Trollekelder	Bij St. Jacobs 17 Ghent Now open on Mondays and closed on Tuesdays, as opposed to what it says in Tim Webb's book. Right off Vridjagmarkt, very close to the last bar.	Not applicable.	Beautiful old bar. Classical music. Candles at tables (mine was a little rickety). Not very crowded. The red-haired bartender was very knowledgeable and friendly, and pours one of the most perfect glasses I have seen.	<i>Rochefort 8</i>	Rochefort	9.2	Strong Dark Ale	bottle	110	Not applicable.	Dark, clean, well balanced. Good temperature, and well-poured.
					<i>Trollebier</i>	House beer by ?	8	Strong Golden Ale	draft	-	Not applicable.	Clean, tasty, very good, but a little too cold for my taste.
					<i>Kapitel Abt</i>	Van Eecke	10	Stronge Blonde Ale	bottle	130	Not applicable.	Great. Clean, pale, nice malt/hops balance.
					<i>Gulden Draak</i>	Van Steenberge	12	Strong Dark Ale	bottle	130	Not applicable.	Sweet malty aroma. Time to get some food!
11:25 pm	Stropke	Meersenerstraat 14 Ghent Just off Vridagmark, a few blocks from the last 2 bars.	Not applicable.	Playing "Love Shack" when I arrive, which is not recommendation from me! Also, so far, the smokiest bar I have been in, and probably the brightest, despite the late hour. Very modern and "yuppy-ish" I really disliked this bar. The selection was only so-so. Seemed overrated in Tim Webb's book.	<i>Rochefort 10</i>	Roche fot	11	Strong Dark Ale	bottle	110	Not applicable.	Well, it was a wonderful beer. Sweet, malty big, and delicious.
12:06 am	Waterhuise an de Bierkant	Groentenmarkt 9 Ghent A few blocks north of the square.	Not applicable.	See above. It didn't take me long to move back to this bar after the last stop!	<i>Drie Fontienen Gueuze</i>	Drie Fonteinen	5	Gueuze Lambic	bottle	150	Not applicable.	Delicious. Typically well balanced. I was not taking detailed notes at this point.
					<i>Het Kaptial Prior</i>	Van Eecke	9	Strong Dark Ale	bottle	110	Not applicable.	Do you notice a theme to this night? I was certainly giving this brewery a lot of business! Anyhow, another malty, sweet and complex ale.

Believe it or not, I made one more stop after this one, but did not take any notes, and my memory was suffering a little at this point! As I remember, it was an unexceptional bar, which I stopped in on the way back to the hotel to get out of the rain. I had one beer, then went home for the night.

#### Monday, October 9, 2000

I was taking it a little slow the next day, after pushing myself on my first solo day in Belgium. I didn't hit a bar until the afternoon, and went slow then, with 1 beer per bar until the final stop.

2:00 pm	Hopdevil	Roekerrestraat 10 Ghent. East and south of the square where the bars of the previous night were. A fairly long walk. Near Coupure Links, a canal around the center of the city.	Not applicable.	Brick and wood look. Nice statue of the hopdevil from branches. Very pretty. I am exhausted from yesterday; too much beer, and not enough food. I ordered onion soup at this bar, which came with some bread. Playing country music.	<i>Felix Brune</i>	Clarysse	4.7	Flanders Brown	bottle	50	Not applicable.	Nice sweet/sour balance.
7:20 pm	Brouwzael	Ter Platan 17-19 Ghent A very long walk along a canal, in a student neighborhood.	Not applicable.	Very upscale, classy kind of place. All wood, with a copper mash tun over the bar. Very nice, except for the tacky music. A good selection of beers, but the prices seemed high--by Belgian standards, that is!	<i>Oerbier</i>	De Dolle Broers	7.5	Flanders Brown	bottle	140	Not applicable.	Delicious, complex sweet-sour beer.
8:16 pm	't Gebed Zonder End	13 Walpoortstrat Ghent A short walk from the last bar	Not applicable.	Classy, old-fashioned. Off white walls and wood. Fairly bright. Felt like someone's house. Not a huge selection, but a good one. Also food. In a student-y neighborhood. Better music than Brouwzael; some classical and jazz. Lots of brewerania, but not cluttered. Overall, a nice place, with good atmosphere.	<i>Gordon's Highland Scotch Ale</i>	Scottish & Newcastle	8.6	Scotch Ale	bottle	100	Not applicable.	Clean, balanced, and malty sweet.
10:19 pm	't Galgenhusie	Groentenmarkt 5 Ghent In the center of time, just down the street from the Waterhuise.	Not applicable.	Incredibly tiny bar with lots of charm. Lots of wood, a wood bar, and tiled wall. Puppets. a very high ceiling (formerly a Gallows house!). Not the same bartender I remembered from the previous visit. Big CD collection; I should bring them a CD or two when I visit next time.	<i>Kasteel Dark</i>	Von Honsebrouk	11	Strong Dark Ale	bottle	115	Not applicable.	Typically delicious beer. June 2005 is the expiration date, so I imagine this beer is pretty young.

10:53 pm	De Tempelier	Meersenerstraat 9 Ghent Across the street from Stropke of the night before, back in the center of town.	Not applicable.	I went to this bar because the Rough Guide (not for beer fanatics, obviously) said "vast" beer selection. Well, I counted 25 beer (including draft) on this list, and the first 2 I asked for (Piraat and Boucanier) were out of stock. Oh well... it is a very nice looking old wood bar, dark, with candles, and it seemed massively roomy after Galgenhuise. Tacky, awful 70's pop music though...why do they play some much of that stuff here?	<i>Augustin Abbey Tripel</i>	Van Steenberge	8	Tripel	draft	100	Not applicable.	Icy cold, and seems a little too sweet for a tripel. Needs dryness and hops. I did not finish this beer.
11:19 pm	Dulle Griet	Vrijdagmarkt 50 Ghent See previous notes.	Not applicable.	Returned to the bar for a second visit. Much more crowded at 11:19 PM. Pretty smoky. A fairly drunk guy stated talking to me by asking me if I was a musician, because I "looked like one." He then assumed I was a journalist when I started taking notes. Eventually he apologized, and we actually had an okay conversation about Belgium and beer, etc. In theory this bar closes at 12:30, but it was open for a while after that. Tonight, I noticed the weird drapes hanging from the ceiling. Stone floor. A fireplace oven in the center of the bar, which I would presume is for winter.	<i>Piraat</i>	Van Steenberge	11	Strong Blonde Ale	bottle	125	Not applicable.	Pretty cold, but might tasty. Better than the last beer, from the same brewery! Malty, sweet, big bodied.
					<i>Westvleteren 12</i>	Westvleteren	11	Trappist	bottle	195	Not applicable.	Pricy for Belgian-around \$4! Delicious, and not as fruity as some bottles I've had in the US.
					<i>Westmalle Tripel</i>	Westmalle	9	Trappist	bottle	120	Not applicable.	Poured too fast. Yeast mixed in. Also, too cold. But fresh, refreshing and yeasty. By the way, I've heard some complaints about the service in this bar, and the yeast in this beer is the only real complaint I have. The service was not wonderful, but it was certainly acceptable.
Wednesday, October 11, 2000												
12:05 pm	Roman	Zagement On the way to the volksmuseum, I saw this small bar, tied to the Roman brewery. I checked in hoping to find Roman Dubbelin Brown, but they did not have it.	Not applicable.	Unpretentious place. Small beer list. Mostly unpainted wood, but the bar had a shiny finish. I stopped in because I had time to kill waiting for the museum to open. There was a very friendly dog, big and orange-brown, which was the most memorable thing about the place.	<i>Sloeber</i>	Roman	8	Strong Golden Ale	bottle	90	Not applicable.	Pleasant, tasty beer. Easy to drink. In comparison to it's model, Duvel, this is a little darker, sweeter, and with a fuller body.
2:06 pm	Waterhuise an de Bierkant	Groentenmarkt 9 Ghent See previous.	Not applicable.	Same as before. I hadn't noticed in my previous visits how tacky the music is...or maybe it changes depending on the bartender. I have now been to this bar a total of 3 times during this trip: 2 times on Monday, once today...but only had a total of 4 beers! How odd!	<i>Drie Fontienen Kriek</i>	Drie Fonteinen	5	Kriek Lambic	bottle	170 (large bottle)	Not applicable.	Wonderful sweet/sour balance. Good cherry character. Drinkable yet uncompromising...better than the draft, which is sweetened.
7:43 pm	Trollekelder	bij St. Jacobs 17 Ghent See previous.	Not applicable.	Good to be back. Seriously classy place. Atmospheric classical music. Bar is made of copper, with a troll image on it. Gave the bartender a bottle of St. Salty Abt. As noted before, bartender pours the most perfect glasses of beer I have seen.	<i>Tripel Karmelite</i>	Bosteels	8	Tripel	bottle	120	Not applicable.	Clean, malty. Nice dry finish, not much hop aroma.
					<i>Ambiorix</i>	Slaghmuylder	8	Dubbel	bottle	110	Not applicable.	Per Tim Webb, this beer is more like a porter than a Dubbel. I don't know...maybe a little roastier than a Dubbel, but I don't know if I'd go that far. It is very good.
					<i>Arabier</i>	De Dolle Broers	8	Orval-style?	bottle	140	Not applicable.	Hoppy and sour. More acetic than brett, but resembles Orval, with Rodenbach sourness. Shockingly the bartender did not have the correct glass, for which he apologized.

9:50 pm	St. Tropez	Brabantdam 164, Ghent This was a quicker trip: I took a bus from near the hotel.	Not applicable.	Live music tonight. Boogie woogie piano. Also the jazz/R&B they were playing between sets was above average for most of these bars. I will stop by tomorrow with Warren and bring CDs. Also, I see some more young cola-drinking girls here. Overall selection, as noted, is could be better on lambics (they have no traditional ones) but otherwise good. Several de Dolle beers, Fantome and Bie beers, all 3 Rochefortes. Prices a little high for Belgium, but great by US standards.	<i>Dulle Teve</i>	De Dolle Broers	10	Strong pale	bottle	150	Not applicable.	Big, dry, hoppy, intense. Some sourness. Pretty pale. Very tasty. Nice mix of hoppiness and sourness.
					<i>Zatte Bie Honey Ale</i>	Bie	9.5	Strong Dark Honey Ale	bottle	130	Not applicable.	Dark, sweet. Can definitely taste honey, as well as caramel.
					<i>St. Bernardus Prior</i>	St. Bernardus	8	Strong Dark Abbey	bottle	100	Not applicable.	Carmel sweet, dark, and smooth.
					<i>Charles Quint</i>	Bosteels	9		bottle	Bought for me.	Not applicable.	Sweet. Caramel. Somewhat burn malt flavor.

This was my last solo night in Belgium. Warren joined me the next day. From here on in, the beers listed here could have been ordered by either one of use, but we each sampled the other's beer.

Thursday, October 12, 2000

11:05 am	St. Tropez	Brabantdam 164, Ghent	Nice wooden beam bar with indoor/outdoor garden	My third visit to this bar. See previous notes.	<i>La Chouffe Blonde</i>	Chouffe	8	Strong Ale/ Tripel	bottle	315	clean spicy notes: alc. is apparent	Spicy, clean very good shape.
					<i>Westmalle Dubbel 7 yrs. old</i>	Westmalle	6.5	Trappist Dubbel	bottle	100	creamy chocolate with rich malt flavor, long finish	Chocolaty, malty. Some cellar character.
					<i>Orval '98: 2 yrs old</i>	Orval	5.2	Trappist Ale	bottle	170	hoppy after 2 years, some brett flavors	More bret then when young, but still plenty of hops. Wonderful aroma.
					<i>Orval Cheese platter</i>	Orval	0	Trappist Cheese	food	200	distinct spicy, sour flavors	Did not take notes.
	t' Fonteintje	Sint-Lievens-Esse, Gentweg 45 on the road from Zottegem to Geraardsbergen.	Chateau style with lots of stone, brick & wood + garden	Château or lodge-like. Tablecloths, Fireplace. Owner is new, and replaced my first bottle because of error on label, getting me a larger, older bottle, for no charge.	<i>Pater Lieven Bruin</i>	Van Der Bossche	6.5	Brown Ale	bottle	75	rich and chewy dark brown ale	Chocolaty, malty..
					<i>Timmermans Gueuze</i>	Timmermans	6.5	Gueuze Lambic	bottle	75		Not a traditional lambic. Sweet. Replaced by beer below for no charge.
					<i>Timmermans Caveau Gueuze</i>	Timmermans	5.5	Gueuze Lambic	bottle	--	very nice intense sourness	Very intense, sharp beer. Age unknown, but bottle looks very old.
	De Muze	Biesloven 4 Zottegem	Pastoral setting with wood decor and fireplace	Very big, with several rooms, a brick bar and light-colored wood. A sun room, also outdoor tables, and a great dog (dark German Shepard).	<i>Oud Zottegems</i>	Crombe	6.5	Flander Red	bottle	110	old, cardboard flavor with brett, short finish	Brett and cardboard. Interesting, but a little old.
					<i>Vitzet</i>		6.5	Kriek Bier	bottle	0	flat, no charge	Flat, poured.
					<i>Reinaert Grand Cru</i>	Van Steenberge	9	Strong Dark Ale	bottle	100	pleasant with a chewy long finish	Malty, sweet, caramel.
					<i>Bush 10</i>	Duibison	10	Strong Ale	bottle	85	very nice though lighter than the Bush 12%	Blond, big, very tasty. Dry finish. New beer.
					<i>Vieux Foundre</i>	Vanderlinden	5.5	Kriek Lambic	bottle	130	nutty sour kriek lambic from defunct brewery	Sweet/sour, big pit flavor.
					<i>Cantillion Kriek 4 years old</i>	Cantillion	5	Kriek Lambic	bottle	0	pecan nuttiness with citrusy flavors	Sour, nutty, bitter with potato (!) aroma.
9:27 pm	Garre	1 De Garre Brugge Near Markt, off Briedalstraat	Alley entrance with nice brick and stone interior	Very classy atmosphere. Brick and off-white, wooden tables with tablecloths, classical music.	<i>Abdij Van Steenbrugge Dubbel</i>	Gouden Boom	6.5	Abbey Dubbel	bottle	95	rich but dry, chocolaty malt flavors, nice finish	Light-bodied, easy to drink, some nice special malt character.
					<i>Gulden Draak</i>	Van Steenberge	11	Strong Ale	bottle	105	strong, sweet with high alcohol	Alcohol, caramel flavor, amber colored, thick.

10:22 pm	De Zolder	15 Valmingsstraat Brugge Off Markt, have to walk a few blocks.	Cellar style below street level, wooden beams and fireplace	Beautiful, atmospheric cellar café. Fireplace, brick all over, archways. 42 beers. St. Bernardus on draft, though they were out of the Abt (12) when I was there. Also had Leifman's Kriek. Plays CDs--will have to bring Beer CDs next time I come!	<i>St. Bernardus Tripel</i>	St. Bernardus	7.2	Abbey Tripel	bottle	85	crisp, clean and pleasant with citrus flavors	Some yeastiness. Clean, somewhat sweet.
					<i>St. Bernardus 6</i>	St. Bernardus	6	Abbey Single	bottle	105	rich and chocolaty, full bodied	Malty, full-flavored.
					<i>Wostyntie Torhouts Mostaard Bier</i>	Reggenboog	7	Ale with Mustard Spice	bottle	105	clean, crisp ale with mustard seed spice notes	Crisp, refreshing. Nice malt/hop balance.
					<i>T'smiste Dubbel</i>	Reggenboog	9	Strong Dubbel	bottle	105	clean strong malty dubbel	Malty, especially clean. Body light for gravity. Both Regenboog beers very clean and well-crafted. Interesting brewery: wacky ingredients, but subtle beers.
11:53 pm	Taverne Curiosa	22 Vladmingsstrat Brugge Down the street from Zolder.	Below street level catacomb look with brick walls; free fish appetizers	Another cellar café. Really impressive look: catacombs, brick and plaster, brick bar. Really attractive bar, but beer selection is only so-so. Not a long list, and mostly easy choices.	<i>Karmeliet Tripel</i>	Bosteels	8	Abbey Tripel	bottle	110	sweet with long finish, orange peels and alcohol	Clean, malty some graininess from malt selection.
					<i>Kasteel Tripel</i>	Van Honsebrouck	11	Strong Ale	bottle	110	clean and delicious, big malt flavors	Very smooth, drinkable. Hard to believe it's 11%..
12:35 pm	Brugge Beertje	5 Kemelstraat Brugge Off the Markt, a few blocks.	Comfortable, but smoky with collections of old brewerania signs, nice owners	Not very large. Lots of posters on the wall for breweries. Tile floor, wooden bar, plaster and wood walls.	<i>Gauloise Bruine</i>	Du Bocq	9	Brown Ale	bottle	105	full body, some bitterness, nice finish	Malty, dark, with bitter finish.
					<i>Malheun Millenium</i>		10	Strong Ale	bottle	105	sweet and malty strong ale with long finish	Nice hoppy aroma. Surprisingly easy-drinking for 10%.
					<i>Urthel</i>		7.5	Amber Color Ale	bottle	95	pleasant with a chewy long finish	Malty, slightly cardboardy.
					<i>3 Fontenien Gueuze</i>	3 Fontenien	5	Gueuze Lambic	bottle	150	intense, bretty flavors and aroma; very distinctive	Wonderful, brett-sour flavors. Great balance.
Friday, October 13, 2000												
	Estamint	2 Nector De Tiere Straat	Local Pub just north of Oudenaard		<i>Cnudde</i>	Cnudde (local brewery)	5	Oud Bruin	draft	40	sweet with some sourness, slight brett.; table beer	Can't find notes at this time. Remember that beer was dominated by Brett, with sweet/sour flavors in background.
At some point during our visit at the next bar, we were joined by Pierre Jelenc, Seth Washinsky and Mike Berger, who accompanied us to some of our visits through Monday evening...we did not order all those beers by ourselves!												

6:00 pm	Kulminator	Vleekminckveld 32 Antwerp	Great selection, atmosphere, location with enormous vintage list, very nice owners	Very classy environment. Tile floor, wood bar, plain wood tables, classical music. Because of the upcoming 24 hours of beer, however, there was one problem with the environment--too many Americans!	<i>Fullers Golden Pride '78</i>	Fullers U.K.	8	Barley Wine	bottle	282	big chewy with heavy mouthfeel, nice finish	Crisp, sweet, mellow; very good shape.
					<i>Audit Barley Wine '78</i>	UK	8	Barley Wine	bottle	201	sherry port-like flavors with a sharpness at finish	Vice nice, complex malt character, but a little too much sherry.
					<i>Magnus Grand Prestige '82</i>	Netherlands	9.5	Imperial Stout	bottle	181	big alcohol with slight oxidation	Roasted-nutty oxidized aroma. Very malty, nutty beer. Roast character-Imperial Stout/Baltic porter range.
					<i>Navy X-mas '78</i>	Brussels	8	Strong X-mas Ale	bottle	383	Scotch ale flavor with big sherry aroma	Extreme sherry-like aroma, but flavor is very malt with Scotch ale caramel character.
					<i>Albani Porter '84</i>	Demark	7.5	Baltic Porter	bottle	181	rich chocolate malt flavor with long finish	Chocolate/sherry aroma. Malty, sherry, chocolaty.
					<i>Dulle Tieve</i>	De Dolle Broers	10	Strong Ale	bottle	167	some brett, hops, spices, big alcohol flavor	Malty/hops in aroma. Sourness. Brett. Sweet/candylike.
					<i>Rochefort '75</i>	Rochefort	10	Trappist Strong Ale	bottle	443	delicious with big malt flavor and long smooth finish	Beautiful. Still very malty, and subtle, luscious.
					<i>Chimay Anniversary '86</i>	Chimay	9	Trappist Strong Ale	bottle	721	plum and sugary flavors with slight sourness	A little thin, sour, Past it's prime.
					<i>Thomas Hardy '82</i>	Eldridge Pope U.K.	12	Barley Wine	bottle	262	very smooth with tartness, long finish	Sweet/sour. Light body (surprisingly) balance.
					<i>Rose de Gambrinus '86</i>	Cantillion	5	Frambroise Lambic	bottle	504	nutty and sour raspberry lambic with dry finish	Sour and bitter.
					<i>Kriek Wetts '84</i>	Wetts	6	Kriek Lambic	bottle	564	extreme brett, "sweat sock" aroma, "bones boiling" flavor	Intense sour /sweatsock aroma, A little to harsh an aftertaste.
					<i>Courage Imperial Stout '81</i>	Courage U.K.	9.5	Imperial Stout	bottle	302	very dry malt flavor with some sourness	More brett character than 1983. Very complex and very good.
					<i>Rodenbach '72</i>	Rodenbach	6	Flanders Bruin	bottle	1210	reddish brown ale with sweet malt flavors and sour finish	Wonderful. Malty/sour. Very complex. Some solvent (? Had trouble reading my handwriting) but very wonderful.
					<i>Abbaye des Rocs '81</i>	Abbaye des Rocs	9	Strong Dark Ale	bottle	524	slight oxidation, but malty with sweet finish	Malty and spicy.
					<i>Courage Imperial Stout '83</i>	Courage U.K.	9.5	Imperial Stout	bottle	92	very malty with slight brett, long finish	Malty roasty, a touch of brett.
					<i>Het Kapittel ABT '95</i>	Van Eecke	10	Strong Ale	bottle	342	sherry and solventy flavors dominate	Some sherry, but nice malty sweetness.
					<i>Westvelteran 12 '93</i>	Westvelteran	12	Trappist Strong Ale	bottle	363	sweet with big alcohol and long finish	Lighter mellow.
<i>Bass Kings Ale '81</i>	made in Belgium	8	Barley Wine	bottle	133	smooth, sweet barley wine with long finish	Mechelen brewery. Not detailed notes.					
2:00 am	Staminickee	23 Vlasmarkt Antwerp		Brick off-white walls. Wooden beams on ceiling, and ceramic mugs.	<i>Piraat</i>		11	Strong blond Ale	bottle	100	sweet, malty chewy.	Clean, very drinkable.
					<i>Gordon's Highland Scotch Ale</i>		8.6	Scotch Ale	bottle	95	Big filling beer.	Malty caramel, chewy.

Saturday, October 14, 2000												
11:40 am	Paters Vaetje	1 Blaumoezelstraat Antwerp Base of cathedral, near square.	Small with nice selection of beers, great location, and a good food menu	Nice brick walls. Wooden bar with marble top. Despite Tim Webb's book, they do serve food. Pizza is good.	<i>Deugniet</i>	Du Bocq	8	Abbey Tripel	bottle	85	spicy, hoppy tripel with big aroma and long finish	Served icy gold. Crisp, spicy, herbal. As it warms, even crisper.
					<i>Hommelbier</i>	Van Eecke	7.5	Hoppy Blonde Ale	bottle	75	refreshing and hoppy clean ale	Very cold. Hoppy and refreshing.
					<i>Fliere Fluter</i>	De Smedt	7	Abbey Tripel	bottle	85	spicy and clean, very "Duvel-like" appearance	Crisp, clean finish. Very refreshing and hoppy.
					<i>Ciney Speciale</i>	Union	9	Strong Dark Ale	bottle	85	sweet with alcohol and dry finish	Rich, malty. Crisp. Not heavy.
2:00PM	24 Hours of Beer			Beer festival. We did not keep detailed notes during this event.	<i>Reinart Triple</i>	Reinart	9	Triple	bottle	--		Very harsh, raw flavor.
					<i>Vlammse Primitief.</i>		7.5		bottle	--		Malty/sweet, well balanced.
					<i>XX Bitter</i>	de Ranke	6.2		bottle	--		No notes.
					<i>De Ranke Kriek</i>				bottle	--		No notes.
					<i>Guldenberg</i>				bottle	--		No notes.
The beers above were the only ones I actually wrote on one of our charts. However, I also checked off many of the beers I sampled on the actual 24 Hours of Beer Booklet. They probably do not represent a complete list, and there were notes taken there, but for the record, they were the following, listed by brewery: <i>Boelens: Bieken, Van Steenberge: Piraat, Gulden Draak, Celis White; Het Anker: Gouden Carolus; Duysters: Loterbol; De Ryck: Christmas Pale Ale, Rochus; Buggenhout, Malheur, Malheur 10 Blond; Sint-Jozef: Sint-Gummarus Dubbel, Limburgse Witte; Paelman: Lam Gods, Druivenbier, Ech Kriekenbier, Kastel Coninxdonckbier; Van Eecke: Het Kapittel Blond, Het Kapittel Abt; Proefbrouwerij: Reinaert Tripel, Vlaamse Primitief. De Ranke: Guldenberg, XX Bitter, Pere Notel, Kriek de Ranke; Regenboog: 't Smisje Dubbel, 't Smisje Tripel, Eeuwlingh, Zwarte Gat Bier.</i>												
10:22 pm	Waagstuk	Stadwag Straat, Antwerp	Courtyard, 1500's building with high ceiling rooms, great selection, nice owner.	Brick walls, wagon wheel chandelier, several rooms off a main bar. Wooden beams on ceiling. Outdoor beer garden. Live music: bagpipe and accordion.	<i>Rodenbach Red Ale</i>	Rodenbach	5	Flanders Red Ale	draft	0 w/m ug	sour red ale with tart pleasant flavor and finish	Sweet, sour earthy. Free when you bring a mug to hang on the ceiling.
					<i>Waagstuk Bios Strong Ale</i>	Van Steenbrugge	11	Strong Ale	draft	0 w/m ug	big strong golden ale, big alcohol, not to have in 32 oz. stein	Clean crisp, sweet pale ale; perhaps Piraat? Also free with mug.
					<i>Rodenbach Grand Cru</i>	Rodenbach	6	Flanders Bruin	bottle	?	very nice, some tartness, long finish	Not in my notes.
					<i>Westvelteran 12</i>	Westvelteran	12	Trappist Strong Ale	bottle	?	big strong alcohol, malty flavors	Also not in my notes.
					<i>Gueze de Cam</i>	de Cam	5	Gueuze Lambic	bottle	5	very sour with some bitterness	Sharp, crisp and easy-drinking.
					<i>Roman Dubbelen Bruinen '86</i>	Roman	8	Double Brown Ale	bottle	450	delicious, the last of beer around, big malty flavor after 14 yrs!	Crisp, still malty.
					<i>Abbaye D'Aulne Blonde Des Peres '85</i>	De Smedt	7	Abbey Dubbel	bottle	0	very smooth with malty flavor, long finish	Earthy aged. I thought not sure how old it is, though Warren says 85.
					<i>De Smedt '90</i>	De Smedt	7	Abbey Dubbel	bottle	0	heavy sherry aroma & flavor dominate	Hmm. No notes on this one either.

Sunday, October 15, 2000

12:19 pm	Proflokaal t'Brouwershuis	Molenstraat 42 Baarle Hertog On the N119 road from Turnhout to Baarle-Hertog.	Large hall atmosphere with long tables, vaulted ceilings, museum, cellar, & store	Store in front, big indoor biergarden in back. No English-language music, for a change. Steeple, cellar with vintage beers.	<i>Duchesse de Bourgogne</i>	Verhaege	6.2	Flanders Bruin	bottle	75	smooth with licorice flavors	Sour, nutty aroma. Malty, sweet. Diactetyl.
					<i>Wetts Gueuze '82</i>	Wetts	6	Gueuze Lambic	bottle	?	touch of vinegar with subtle sourness	My notes say Oud Beersel. Sour, brett, crispy, earthy and refreshing.
					<i>Zulte</i>	?	6	Flanders bruin	Bottle	65	No notes from Warren.	Sweet-some cardboard.
					<i>Kempsh Vuur 1993</i>	?	8	Triple	bottle	110	No notes from Warren.	Hoppy aromatic, crisp refreshing, despite age. Bottle has no date, but 1999 is expiration date.
					<i>Cantillion Gueuze '90</i>	Cantillion	6	Gueuze Lambic	bottle	?	intense bitterness & sourness	Earthy aromatics, sourness bretty. Less earthy as glass set for a while.
					<i>Gerardin Tradional Lambic</i>	Gerardin	6	Gueuze Lambic	bottle	?	big brett flavor with short finish	Brett pretty much dominates.
					<i>Morte Subite Gueuze Traditional</i>	Morte Subite	5	Gueuze Lambic	bottle	?	nice sour flavor with long finish	Very lively, very sharp good.
					<i>Brave Broder</i>	local contract saison	6	Saison	bottle	?	clean almost lager-like, with subtle flavor, very light	Earthy lots of aroma from crock.
					<i>3 Fontenien Millenium Gueuze</i>	3 Fontenien	7	Gueuze Lambic	bottle	?	full body with sourness, nice long finish	Crisp, refreshing and complex at the same time.
					<i>Chimay '86</i>	Chimay	8	Trappist Strong Ale	bottle	?	malt dominant with sweet sour combination, sour finish	Sourness, malt flavor stronger.
<i>Boskeun '86</i>	De Dolle Broers	8	Strong Ale	bottle	?	very sour, earthy, and brett flavors	Big caramel sweetness. Not as hoppy as when young.					
3:45 pm	Spytighen Duvel	Outterstraat 99 Turnhout On N18 off the Turnhout Ring Road.	Traditional dark wood bierhuis with brick walls, with great barley wine selection	Very old building. Brick walls, wooden beams, brick bar. A little smoky. Some celtic folk music.	<i>Harveys Elizabethian Ale</i>	Harveys U.K.	8	Strong Ale	bottle	105	very malty with long finish	Malty, balanced. Very good shape. A little sharp.
					<i>Bass #1 Barley Wine</i>	Bass	10	Barley Wine	bottle	95	sweet and malty with long finish	Marl, caramel, some sherry. Well-balanced.
					<i>Tizelfde Ale</i>		6	Pale Ale	bottle	105	sweet Belgian pale ale	Belgian pale ale. Somewhat malty, sweet.
					<i>Whitbread Gold Label 1990</i>	Whitbread	10	Barley Wine	bottle	95	slick on the palate with higher alcohol flavors	Some fusels, some sherry.
					<i>St. Louis Gueuze Fond Tradition</i>	Van Honsebrouck		Gueuze Lambic	bottle	105	very dry & sour with big brett flavors	Pale, mostly brett, but also some sourness.
					<i>Van der Linden Gueuze</i>	Belle Vue	6	Gueuze Lambic	bottle	210	sweet and less brett flavors, sweet finish	Carmel sweetness with brett. Fairly sweet, but also sour.
					<i>Egmont</i>		6.5	Tripel?	bottle	95	No notes from Warren.	Sweet, a little heavy, especially for Tripel style.
					<i>Gouden Carolus</i>		9.5	Strong Dark Ale	bottle	95	No notes from Warren.	Malty, caramel nutty flavors.
					<i>Harveys X-mas</i>	Harveys U.K.	8	X-mas Ale	bottle	210	big malty flavor with long finish	Some sherry, but nice malt character.



6:20 pm	Duvelshei	Geel Get into center of Geel, take 118 to Retie; it's a road off of it on the right, on the outer part of town.	Residential atmosphere with beer memorabilia, good selection, and great prices	Very small, local bar. Brick bar, light colored wood, cloth wallpaper. Big collection of bottles. Feels like drinking in someone's den.	<i>Vitzet</i>		6.8	Pale Ale	bottle	75	hoppy "Duvel-like" pale ale	Big hops.
					<i>Ezelsbier</i>		9	Strong Ale	bottle	65	clean, refreshing strong ale	No notes by Bill.
					<i>Buccaneer</i>		12	Strong Ale	bottle	?	high alcohol pale ale with lots of carbonation	Typical pirate beer. Very clean-drinking, big.
					<i>Urthel</i>		7.5	Pale Ale	bottle	?	clean pale ale with subtle flavors	Clean, malty, not much hops.
					<i>Lamoral Tripel</i>	Van den Bossche	8	Abbey Tripel	bottle	?	pleasant tripel with candi sugar flavors	Malty, pale.
					<i>Belle Vue Gueuze '82</i>	Belle Vue	6	Gueuze Lambic	bottle	?	slight sourness and finishes sweet	Some sweetness. Doesn't taste as old as it is. Nice earthiness.
					<i>Witkap Pater Dubbel '90</i>	Witkap	8	Abbey Dubbel	bottle	?	brett and oxidation dominate	Brett. Not heavy in body.
					<i>Promesse Dubbel '90</i>	Piessens	7.5	Abbey Dubbel	bottle	?	nice malty flavors with modest finish	Alcohol smell.
					<i>Augustijn '90</i>	Van Steenbrugge	9	Strong Ale	bottle	?	smooth strong ale with modest finish	Very sherried, but some malt flavors.
				<i>Guldenberg '96 bottle #3</i>			Pale Ale	bottle	?	bottle #3 of production, 4 years old, still very hoppy	Ninco Bacelle listed as brewery (not de Ranke). Crisp, sour, intense.	
9:41 pm	Paters Vaetje	Antwerp	Small with nice selection of beers, great location, and a good food menu	See previous. Ordered Pizza again.	<i>Verboten Fruit</i>	Hoogaarden	9	Strong Ale	bottle	95	mellow ale that is nicely balanced in flavor and finish	Dark, heavy. Not all that interesting.
					<i>Kwak</i>	Bosteels	8	Strong Ale	bottle	105	sweet candi sugar flavor with malt base, balanced	Sweet, caramelly, not too heavy. Some spiciness from yeast.
10:57 am	Waagstuk	Stadweg Straat, Antwerp	Courtyard 1500s building with high ceiling rooms, great selection, nice owner	See earlier.	<i>Rocheft 6</i>	Rocheft	7.5	Abbey Dubbel	bottle	95	fruity with sweetness, very mellow	Nice caramel. Fruity, datelike flavor.
					<i>Duvel</i>	Moorgat	8	Pale Ale	bottle	95	spicy with fresh blend of candi sugar and carbonation	Crisp, clean, very refreshing.
12:24 am	Stamineeke	Vlasmarkt, Antwerp	Two story bierhuis with lots of bier memorabilia, brick bar, nice selection, friendly	See earlier.	<i>Zatte Bie Honey Ale</i>	Zatte Bie	9	Strong Dark Ale with Honey	bottle	110	very malty with a nice honey hint in the flavor	Spicy, yeaty, dark, malty, some honey.
					<i>Hel Kapittel Abt</i>	Van Eecke	10	Strong Dark	bottle	95	No notes from Warren.	Malty, sweet, notable alcohol.
Monday, October 16, 2000												
10:51 am	Oud Arsenal	Marie Pijpelnixstraat Antwerp Walk along Meir. Turn right on Wapper, 2 blocks down.	Old "brown" bar off the Meir, open in the morning, modest selection, nice owner	Nice "Brown" café. One room, unpretentious, brown flowered wallpaper, lots of beer signs on the wall. Place is pretty busy at 11:00 in the morning on Monday! No music. Bar is from 1832, and in same family since 1924.	<i>Ename Dubbel</i>	Roman	6.5	Abbey Dubbel	bottle	70	good malty flavor with pleasant sweetness, long finish	Malty, chewy taste. Well-made.
					<i>Boon Gueuze</i>	Boon	6	Gueuze Lambic	bottle	90	very tart and spritzzy	Tart, bretty, well-balanced.
					<i>Westvleteren 6</i>	Westvleteren	6	Trappist Pale Ale	bottle	80	hoppy, spicy, and refreshing with a long finish	Creamy, hoppy nice-drinking beer.
					<i>Rodenbach Alexander</i>	Rodenbach	6	Flanders Red Ale	bottle	75	some sourness, candi sugar flavors, and nice finish	Tart, refreshing, straightforward.
	De Beyerd	26 Boschstraat Breda, Holland Drive to town. Get out and walk.	wood bar with beer signs, long bottle list with nice selection, plus 10 drafts	Nice brown café. Wood tables, wood bar. More draft beers than I am used during this trip. Unfortunately, they were having a Belgian beer festival, so they had only Belgian beer, which is not why we drove to Holland!	<i>Kwelchouffe</i>	Chouffe	8.5	Strong Ale	bottle	5.5 Gilders	La Chouffe export to Holland; nice spicy flavors	Light spiced, Nice, quaffable.
					<i>Westmalle Dubbel (draft)</i>	Westmalle	8	Abbey Dubbel	draft	5 Gilders	Malty Dubbel, very pleasant on draft	No notes by Bill.

	Kandinsky	58 Telegraafstraat Tilburg, Holland Drive to Tilberg. Go towards railroad, then follow Tim Webb's directions.	large café with semi circular bar, wood style with 14 tables, snacks and beer signs	Almost a circular bar. Not very old, mostly brown in color. Bar has stools, which has not been seen much in Belgium. Fair number of taps. Crappy American music. Some food, including nuts.	<i>Tij Zatte</i>	Tij	8	Abbey Tripel	bottle	5.5 Gild ers	crisp, citrusy tripel; darker than usual	Crisp, clean full-bodied, spicy. Heavy for style.
					<i>Tij Struis</i>	Tij	9	Strong Ale	bottle	6 Gild ers	dark and sweet, candi sugar and caramel flavors	Very caramelly and sweet.
					<i>Jopen Koyt</i>		8.5	Spice Herb Ale	bottle	5.5 Gild ers	licorice, herbs, and spices from a 1607 recipe	Beautiful, well-balanced beer. Interesting herbal flavors, big malt flavor.
					<i>Jopen Hoppenbier</i>		6.5	Grute Ale	bottle	5 Gild ers	sour spiced ale from a 1501 recipe	Delicate, easy-drinking. Some spiciness. Somewhat saison-like.
					<i>Jopen Bok</i>		6.5	Bock (ale?)	bottle	5 Gild ers	sweet with big malty flavor, very dark color	Earthy, malty aroma. Light tasting bock.
					<i>Karthuizer Ipso Facto</i>		10	Barley Wine	bottle	6.5 Gild ers	smooth English style barley wine with long finish	Malty, mellow. Crisp, some hopiness.
9:14 pm	Kulminator	See previous.	Great selection, atmosphere, location with enormous vintage list, very nice owners	See previous.	<i>Rocheftort 10 '75 (25 years old)</i>	Rocheftort	11	Strong Ale	bottle	443	beautiful after 25 years... true perfection of vintage beer!	Malty slight, slight sherry, rich mellow, delicious, balanced.
					<i>Greene King Harvest Sweet Brown Ale '78</i>	Greene King	7	Brown Ale	bottle	201	licorice and sherry notes, but still malty	Malty, sherried. Old ale flavor.
					<i>Oerbier '80 Verjaar Dagsbier</i>	De Dolle Broers	12	Strong Ale	bottle	221	strong, sour with delicious	Vinegary, malty, big.
					<i>Cambell's Gold Label '83</i>	Artois	10	Barley Wine	bottle	141	malty & sweet with long finish	Sherry, malty aromatics and strong malt flavor.
					<i>Stille Nacht '82</i>	De Dolle Broers	8	Barley Wine	bottle	363	very vinous, winey flavors dominate	Sour, malty sherry. Earthy flavor, rich, complex vinous.
					<i>Traquair House '84</i>	Traquair House	9	Barley Wine	bottle	354	sherry nose with oxidation, but very chewy	Malty, chewy, caramel, big malt.
					<i>Thomas Hardy '82</i>	Eldridge Pope U.K.	12	Barley Wine	bottle	262	deliciously clean with a touch of sourness	Sour, bretty and malty. Very complex.
					<i>McEwens X-mas '85</i>	McEwens	8	Scotch Ale	bottle	202	malted "milk duds" flavor, big mouthfeel	Very malty, still full-bodied. Actually brewed in Mechelen.
					<i>St. Sixtus Dubbel '83</i>	St. Bernardus	4	Abbey Dubbel	bottle		musty "session" dubbel	Cheesy-wet sock aroma. Somewhat overaged.
					<i>John Courage Imperial Stout '81</i>	Courage U.K.	9	Imperial Stout	bottle		great flavors, big and malty nose, body, and finish	Wonderful, intense, complex.
This day was the last we travelled with Pierre, Seth and Mike. The remainder of the trip was just Warren and I.												
1:05 am	Paters Vaetje	Antwerp	Small with nice selection of beers, great location, and a good food menu	See previous.	<i>Judas</i>	Union	8.5	Strong Ale	bottle	100	light body, big alcohol blonde ale	Sweet candy flavor. Sits there. Not dry enough.
					<i>Oeral</i>	De Dolle Broers	7.5	Pale Ale	bottle	100	light ale with sour notes	Very quaffable. Somewhat simple.

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

11:45 am	Creperie Bretone	Place des Brabacons Lovaine La Nieve Located on the road from Brussels to Namur. Follow directions to center, then let Warren use his radar.	Big café located in a college campus with 300 biers and 300 crepes	Many pancakes, many beers, and lots of ice cream! Collage area. Pretty modern looking , but still with lots of brick and rough-hewn wood. Tacky pop music. And no Johnny Cash this time. Owner showed us that had Westvelteren 12 on list. Dog at bar. Bar with rail on top, and no stools. Only lagers are Jupiler NA, Carlsberg and Carlsberg Elephant.	<i>Rochfortoise Bruine</i>	Rocheferoise	12	Strong Ale	bottle	100	lots of malt flavors with alcohol; sweet finish	Crisp, some sherried flavor. Probably better either younger or older.
					<i>Roman Dubbelin</i>	Roman	8	Strong Ale (dark)	bottle	120	oxidation is apparent, but big malt flavors are dominant	Nice, reddish-born, high alcohol. Some fruitiness. Very candylike. Esters increase as the beer warms.
					<i>Poiluchette Blonde</i>	Huyghe	7.5	Blond Ale (spiced)	bottle	115	a spiced blond ale	Spicy, some hops, malty some sweetness in flavor.
					<i>Hercule Stout</i>		9	Stout	bottle	160	delicious malt dominant stout with a long sweet finish	Malty roasty, fruity. Rich and well-balanced. Lots of hop flavor in finish-more so than typical in Belgian Dark ales.
1:06 pm	Le Brasse-Temps	Place de Brabacons 4, Lovaine La Nieve Just by the Creperie Bretonne.	Bush-Dubisson brew pub in a college campus with approximately 4 draft biers	Open 1 month and 1 week when we arrived. Don't have all their beers up yet. At the moment, they had only 1 beer actually made at the brewpub, the Trolls beer. Brewery was very modern, though again with lots of brick. Beers served way, way too cold.	<i>Cuvee des Trolle</i>	Bush	7	Spiced Ale	draft	75	saaz hop bitterness with floral spicy notes	Spicy and hoppy. Hard to taste beer at these cold temperatures.
					<i>Bush Blonde</i>	Bush	10	Strong Ale	draft	85	smooth light color strong ale	In "Piraat" mold. Clean, big-hard to tell how strong it is.
					<i>L'Amrasse Temps</i>	Bush	6	Pale Ale	draft	55	fruity table bier, pale to amber color	Surprisingly fruity. Somewhat "brewpubby," fairly cloudy, very hoppy.
4:04 pm	Spinnekopke	Place du Jardin Auxfleurs Bruxelles One block from George V hotel.	Cantillon café in a traditional Brussels house with dark wood with great food		<i>Faro Au Fut</i>	Cantillon	5	Faro Lambic	draft	90	sweetened lambic on draft, very nice	Sweet-sour. Very straightforward.
					<i>Lambic Au Fut</i>	Cantillon	5	Traditional Lambic	draft	90	traditional draft lambic, big sourness, long finish	Crisp, tart and refreshing.
5:06 pm	Le Zageman	116 rue de Laeken Bruxelles Walk up from city center.	Café with a nice selection of lambics, memorabilia, and a mural outside	Wood bar. Many posters from old Lambic breweries. Wall is wood and off-white plaster with textures. Small courtyard, with a cover (greenhouse-like). Tile floor. Waitress was distant. Have Cantillon, Girardin, Oud Beersel, Hansen and Vanderlinden (Troch Traditional) also some Boon. Music (from radio) somewhat obnoxious.	<i>Hanssens Kriek</i>	Hanssens	5	Kriek Lambic	bottle	120	refreshingly sour kriek, nice finish	Sweet/sour, very nutty.
					<i>Girardin Gueze Black Label</i>	Girardin	5	Gueuze Lambic	bottle	95	traditional gueuze with tart flavors	Tart, crisp, refreshing and earthy.
8:02 pm	Biere Circus	Rue de l'Esigment 89 Bruxelles Off Rue Royale, near park.	Modern beer café with brewery signs galore and a fine selection of 750 ml. bottles	Modern bar. Corkboard walls and bar. Lots of Breweriana and green ceiling with a frame-like pattern.	<i>Biere Du Lion</i>	Vervifontaine	8	Saison	bottle	350	very nice hoppy and refreshing saison	Crisp, very refreshing. Huge herbal hop aroma, and very light flavor.
					<i>Passe Stout Sedan</i>		6	Stout	bottle	360	roasty and malty sweet stout	Malty, roasty aroma. Big Roast Flavor. Nice balance. Brewery in cooperative de la Basse-Semois in Bouillon for export to France.
					<i>Noel de Silenrieux</i>		7.5	X-mas dark ale	bottle	350	spiced x-mas ale with nice finish	Spicy, malty, drinkable. Slight astringency from spices, but very good.
					<i>Rader Ambree</i>	De L'Abbaye du Val-Dieu	10	blend w/Jenever	bottle	160	1 yr. Old bier blended with 1 yr. Old Jenever; hot finish	Spicy, malty. Some alcohol. No hops. Alcohol burn.
					<i>La Montagnarde</i>	Abbaye Des Rocs	9	Strong Ale (amber)	bottle	130	Belgian strong with big malt sweetness	My notes say Montagnarde. Malty-spicy, very sweet.
					<i>Fantome Noel '92</i>	Fantome	10	X-mas Ale (Vintage '92)	bottle	0	sourness and sherry plus malt; very vinous with tart finish	Sherry malty aroma. Mainly sourness in finish. Very vinous. Extremely well-aged.

Wednesday, October 18, 2000												
12:11 pm	Poehenellekelder	Rue de Chene 5 Bruxelles Across from Mannekin Pis.	No notes from Warren.	Very nice-looking place, cluttered with puppets and Mannekin Pis Memorabilia. Mellow jazz music in the background.	<i>Blanche de Bruxelles</i>		4.5	Wit	bottle	80	No notes from Warren.	Very crisp, refreshing and fresh.
					<i>Leffe Radieuse</i>	Leffe	8.5	Strong Dark Ale	bottle	105	No notes from Warren.	Sweet, clean. Very easy-drinking for such a big beer.
12:50 pm	Porte Noir	67 Rue des Alexians Bruxelles 2 blocks from Grand Place.	No notes from Warren.	Very nice medieval cellar bar. All brick stone floor, brick bar.	<i>St. Bernardus</i>	St. Bernardus	12	Strong Dark Ale	draft	130	No notes from Warren.	Rich, crisp, well-made. Nice to have on draft for a change.
					<i>Gulden Draak</i>	Van Steenbrugge	11	Strong Dark Ale	Bottle	120	No notes from Warren.	Roast, some burnt male in nose. Very roasty, like a stout.
					<i>Divine</i>		9.5	Tripel	bottle	100	No notes from Warren.	Big, sweet, fairly heavy for a tripel.
					<i>Queue de Charre</i>		5.4	Flanders Brown	bottle	90	No notes from Warren.	Nice sweet/sour balance.
					<i>Traquair House 12 year old Whiskey</i>	Traquair House	?	Scotch Whisky	shot	200	No notes from Warren.	Tracquair house distilled.
8:05 pm	Den Stillen Genieter	Neauwstraat Mechelen Few blocks south of Grote Markt	Dark wood, beer signs, and brick bar with large bottle menu and food	Brick bar, plaster walls, tile floor. Many posters. Several rooms. Classical music. Very classy atmosphere, great selection of beers, including many Lambics and Wallonian (including Fantome) Beers. Only complaint: Owner opens whenever he feels like it, which in this case was 8:00 pm. Also, some beers on the list were not there.	<i>La Poste '90</i>	Abbaye de Warneton de Bruye	8	Flanders Bruin (Vintage '90)	bottle	140	amber with sherry notes, nice carbonation and finish	Deceased brewery. Sweet/sour very much in the style of a Flanders bruin, despite the Abbey name.
					<i>Cuvee de Ermitage Christmas '95</i>	Union	8	X-mas Ale (Vintage '95)	bottle	100	lots of caramel and alcohol, with sweet, long finish	Sherry, malty and sweet. Very caramelized.
					<i>Fantome Saison D'Erezee '96</i>	Fantome	7.5	Saison	bottle	300	spring saison with musty aroma and bitter flavors	Spicy, earthy aroma. Sweet, sour and spicy.
					<i>Wetts Kriek</i>	Wetts	5	Kriek Lambic	bottle	125	plum and raison flavors with sweet finish	Surprisingly sweet. But huge, earthy component of pit-diacetyl. Very strong cherry flavor.
					<i>Moriau Gueuze</i>	Boon Gueuze?	5	Gueuze Lambic	bottle	110	tart sourness is modest	Easy drinking, but complex.
					<i>Nieuwjaarsbier '95</i>	Maasland	8	New Year's Ale	bottle	330	short on aroma, Hall., Gold., Chall. Hops; big malt w/sweet finish	Cardboard aroma. Caramelly. Malty tastes like a much darker beer than it is. Probably brewed in 1995-96. Spicy.
11:40 pm	Porte Noir	See previous.	No notes from Warren.	See previous	<i>Rocheport 10</i>	Rocheport	11	Dark Trappist	bottle	150	No notes from Warren.	Plummy, rummy malty beer.
					<i>Tripel Karmelite</i>		8	Tripel	bottle	120	No notes from Warren.	Malty, spicy. Hops are well-balanced, but served way too cold.
1:25 am	Chez Moeder Lambic	68 Rue Savoie Not near anything else. Take a cab or subway.	No notes from Warren.	Funky, smoky, tiny bar with comics. List is smaller than it used to be, but still pretty big for such a tiny bar. Black & white tile floor, another brick bar, and rough-hewn furniture. It was a long night, so we were pretty fatigued by the time we arrived...and being locked in the subway afterwards didn't help!	<i>Zatte Bie Honey Ale (large bottle)</i>	Bie	9	Strong dark Ale.	bottle	330	No notes from Warren.	Roasty, honey, caramel.
Thursday, October 19, 2000												
3:39 pm	Lop Lop	29, Rue L'Ecyer Brussels	No notes from Warren.	Very odd and surreal experience. The menu is written in English, and the waitress was a Brit. Obviously a Brit hangout. Better selection of beers than you would expect. Seemed like American pub bar music. Brown wood, curved bar, mostly English decorations (flag, bar towels, etc.). It didn't help that we were very fatigued by our previous night!	<i>Barbar Bok</i>		8	Strong Pale Ale.	bottle	120	No notes from Warren.	Honeyish, sweet, somewhat oxidized.
					<i>Drakson</i>		10	Amber honey beer.	bottle	120	No notes from Warren.	Strong, crisp, very alcoholic, but with a dry finish.

	<b>3 Fonteinien</b>	Herman Tierlincklein 3 Beersel Take E19 south from Brussels toward Charleroi. Get off Beersel Exit (19), make a couple of turns.	Opposite church on the square, a great looking café with large rooms	Very classy restaurant. No music (but we were at a slow hour). Mostly wood, but some brickwork.. Very bright. Looks very much more like a restaurant than a bar.	<i>Draft Kriek</i>	3 Fontenien	5	Kriek Lambic	draft	70	sweet and sour draft kriek with a long finish	Big cherry nose. Some sweetness. Rapid carbonation. Very strong cherry flavor. Some lambic flavor, but notably sweetened.
					<i>Draft Lambik</i>	3 Fontenien	5	Traditional Lambic	draft	100	sourness dominates with tart finish	Earthy bretty, sharp aroma. Carbonation mild, crisp. Refreshing. No sulfur, which I remember from this beer at a previous visit.
					<i>1997 Gueze</i>	3 Fontenien	5	Gueuze Lambic	bottle	free	No notes from Warren.	Well, I didn't do much better. The entirety of my description is "Wonderful." Armand brought the bottle up when he was discussing his plans for a new lambic café.
7:49 pm	<b>Vaudree</b>	Angleur	Busy diner style café that never closes, and has huge bottle beer and food menu	Restaurant/diner. Brick walls. Fairly busy. Round bar with quite a few drafts. This bar has very little atmosphere, but at least the music is low enough to be inoffensive; however, the selection is amazing.	<i>Fantome Saison '91</i>	Fantome	6.3	Saison (Spring)	bottle	390	floral aroma with earthy flavor, very nice	Tart, spicy. Herbal. Oxidation not as apparent as other flavors. High carbonation.
					<i>Adelscott</i>			Smoked Ale	bottle	140	slightly smoky nose with clean malt taste	Too cold. Smoke flavor apparent as it warms.
					<i>Demon</i>		12	Strong Ale	bottle	200	hot, big alcohol nose and flavor with dry finish	Too cold. Some oxidation. Hot alcohol flavor.
					<i>La Gaffe '87</i>	Vapeur	8	Saison Speciale	bottle	470	oxidized with sour notes, thinned-out and rough	Spicy aroma. Tart, nutty malt flavors. Oxidation. A little past it's prime, I think. Some astringency.
					<i>Arcenal Grand Prestige '85</i>		10	Imperial Stout (Vintage '85)	bottle	165	malty + alcoholic nose with smooth, big body	Did not finish bottle; some vinous qualities, but the bottle is not quite right.
					<i>Goldie Barley Wine</i>	Eldridge Pope U.K.	8	Barley Wine	bottle	175	smooth with big caramel, alcohol is evident, nice	Earthy, sherryish aroma, tasty caramel malt, complex. More comments when warm. Nice balance, interesting aged quality. Some mustiness, which dissipated quickly. Malty caramel aroma. Nice balance. Candy-ish qualities. Not sure how old the bottle is; label looks at least 10 years old, but it does have a bar code. Also, label says "doppio malto." Was it a bottle meant to be exported to Italy?
					<i>St. Edmund Special</i>		7	Barley Wine	bottle	200	malty, chewy, and very sweet	Caramel, some sherry.
					<i>Marston's Oud Rogder</i>	Marston's U.K.	8	Barley Wine	bottle	200	alcohol, licorice, with a long sweet finish	Malty, licorice flavors. Some sherry.
<b>Friday, October 20, 2000</b>												
9:20 am	<b>Vaudree</b>	Angleur	Busy diner style café that never closes, and has huge bottle beer and food menu		<i>La Gaffe D'or d'Ambly Nassogne</i>		7.5	Brown Ale	bottle	115	sweet malty brown ale	Musty nose. Some nice malt in finish. Probably some spiciness. Swirling glass eliminated most of the musty aromas.
					<i>Gauloise Bruine</i>	Du Bocq	5	Brown Ale	bottle	125	harsh and bitter with alcohol, short finish	Somewhat astringent. Tastes as if it is over-fermented in the bottle. Too thin, carbonation high. Surprising: usually this beer is quite good.
12:21 pm	<b>Taverne du Brasserie Blaugies</b>	Blaugies	Large farmhouse café at the Blaugies brewery set in the beautiful countryside	Big, modern. Some brick and rustic touches, but this was the only bar we were at in the entire trip that I saw a TV in.	<i>La Biere Darbyste</i>	Blaugies	5.8	Fig Ale	bottle	0	fig flavor is light, nice and smooth	Spicy, crisp carbonation, earthy aroma.
					<i>La Saison D'Epeautre</i>	Blaugies	6	Saison	bottle	0	spicy and delicious, with delicate flavor	Hoppy, spicy, refreshing.
					<i>La Moneuse</i>	Blaugies	8	Saison	bottle	0	spicy saison, alcohol is detectable, long finish	Malty, sweet, and spicy yeast.
					<i>La Moneuse Special Noel</i>	Blaugies	8	X-mas Saison	bottle	0	malty, caramel, with no spicy notes	Malty, more caramel malt flavors, Spiciness more subdued.
					<i>Dupont Pils</i>	Dupont (exclusive to area)	5	Pilsner (regional)	draft	0	Dupont pilsner, clean with no harsh flavors	No notes by Bill.

4:44 pm	t Rusteel	Huelestraat 162 Gullegem. Drive around and get lost! Actually, A19 to Gullegem, find signs to Huele.	No notes from Warren.	Converted barn. Plaster walls, fireplace. Wooden booths with upholstered seats. Nondescript music. Quite a bit of old exposed brick. Evening crowd arrived as we sat there.	<i>Bellegems Bruin</i>	Bockor	5	Flanders Bruin	bottle	55	No notes from Warren.	Good tart/sweet balance. Very easy to drink.
					<i>Vichtenaar</i>		5	Flanders Bruin	bottle	55	No notes from Warren.	Somewhat tarter finish. A little lighter in malt flavor and color.
					<i>Oud Zottegems</i>		5	Flander Bruin	bottle	80	No notes from Warren.	Cardboard, oxidized. Not much flavor. Never liked this beer. Ordered Kriek but they were out of it.
					<i>Ichtegems</i>		5	Flanders Bruin	bottle	50	No notes from Warren.	Very tart. Vinegar notes. Quite tasty, but seems subdued compared to previous bottles.
7:38 pm	Ostens Bierhuus	Louisastraat 14 Oostend	Comfortable modern café with good beer list and British owner	Somewhat modern looking. Mostly orange walls. Cushioned seats, books. Wooden bar with bar stools.	<i>Reinaert Tripel</i>	Van Steenberge	8.5	Tripel	bottle	120	citric tripel with plenty of alcohol	Hoppy, sweet and big bodied.
					<i>Moinette Blond</i>	Dupont	8	Tripel	bottle	100	big alcohol, with saison-like flavors, smooth	Hoppy, crisp, very refreshing.
					<i>Helleketebier</i>	Watou	7	Blonde Honey Ale	bottle	110	creamy with nice honey flavors, long finish	Creamy, tasty and malty.
					<i>Kasteel Bruin</i>	Van Honsebrouck	11	Strong Dark Ale	bottle	130	thick, malty, big alcohol, long delicious finish	Rich, malty, full-bodied. Chewy, tasty. None of the Brett flavors you get in US bottles. I wonder why?
10:07 pm	Café Botteltje	Louisasgraat 19 Oostend Across the street from the other place.	Bar inside Hotel Marion: with great bottle selection, across from Café Lucullus	Busy when I got there. Many books, rooms. (Back room with couch). Wooden bar with beer memorabilia (including Schlitz!) and green walls. Very good selection of both beers and genevers. Circular bar.	<i>Duvel</i>	Moortgat	8.5	Strong Golden Ale	bottle	100	spicy and clean with high carbonation	I didn't sample this beer. Warren had this with his meal, I think.
					<i>Kerstbier de Bie 1997</i>	Bie	8	Kerstbier (Holiday)	bottle	115	Warren was eating his meal while I sampled these 2.	Time has been kind. Nice sweet/sour blend, like a red/oud brune.
					<i>Het Kapital Prior</i>	Van Eecke	9	Strong Dark Abbey	bottle	80		Malty, big caramel aroma. Dark brown color. Malty, tasty. A little cold.
					<i>Smiste Dubbel '97</i>	Regenboog	9	Dubbel (Vintage 1997)	bottle	350	port-like dubbel with dates	Earthy, portlike, vinous (only 3 years old!). Delicious. Nice tartness.
					<i>Gouden Carolus '86</i>	Anker	7	Brown Ale	bottle	200	malty & sweet with sherry nose	From Het Anker, Mechelen. Sherry, port notes, but still lots of malt. Taste is rich, complex malt/sherry balance. Very good!
					<i>Brigand X-mas '98</i>	Van Honsebrouck	9	X-mas Ale (Vintage 1998)	bottle	135	big alcohol, bretty flavors, finishes dry	Too cold. But nice blend of brett, malt, hops, sweetness and sherry.
					<i>Hercule Stout</i>	Elleoise	9	Imperial Stout	bottle	140	big body, chewy, malty imperial stout	As usual, roasty, malty, and very well-balanced.

Saturday, October 21, 2000

1:20 pm	Bloemenlust	61 Smetledestraat Wetteren Drive around to Wetteren. Find south part of town, follow roads to Smetled.	No notes from Warren.	Classy, with cushioned seats. Yellow walls with flowers painted. Bar is partially octagonal. Mellow European music. Food includes snacks, pancakes and ice cream. Very friendly and helpful owner. Re: music; there was one awful song about Elvis's death!	<i>Aerts 1900</i>	Palm.	7.5	Strong Pale Ale	bottle	80	No notes from Warren.	Expired 05/99. Seems oxidized.
					<i>Urthel</i>	Tonicus Findholdus?	75	Strong Pale Ale	bottle	95	No notes from Warren.	Spicy, clean. From new brewery? Or contract? It was heavily advertised.
					<i>Rocheport 8</i>	Rocheport	9.2	Trappist Strong Dark Ale	bottle	105	No notes from Warren.	Malty, sweet, fairly mellow.
					<i>Gordon's Highland Scotch Ale</i>	Scottish & Newcastle	8.6	Scotch Ale	bottle	115	No notes from Warren.	Malty. Some roastiness in finish. Caramel flavors.
					<i>Uitzet Tripel (local)</i>	Paeleman's	6.8	Pale Ale	bottle	free	No notes from Warren.	Big, crisp hop aroma. Spiciness from yeast. Highly carbonated. Refreshing.
3:47 pm	Groel Dal	Cotthem 9 St. Lievens-Houtem Take N423 from Wetteren to St. Lievens-Houtem. Follow signs to center. Then follow sign to Zottegem. Cotthem is off to the size.	No notes from Warren.	Beautiful outdoor garden, with marble table, many flowers, and a little mannekin pis. Luckily, it was a really nice day, so we were able to go outside and have a smoke-free area. Table use do be a sewing machine. Great-looking place, but they do not know how to pour a beer!	<i>Roman Dubbelin Brunen</i>	Roman	8	Strong Dark Ale	bottle	85	No notes from Warren.	Fairly sherried. Thing tasting. Too old to be fresh, and not quite old enough to become a different, more interesting beer. Big roasted malt finish; stoutlike. As it warms, I even get some citrusy hops, like an American Imperial Stout.
					<i>Affligem Bruinen (Dubbel)</i>	De Smedt	7	Dubbel	bottle	75	No notes from Warren.	Very poorly poured. Lots of yeast floating in glass. Tastes very vegetal.

4:42 pm	De Pikardin	Cotthem 6 St. Lievens-Houtem Across the street from the other. We actually were planning on coming to this place, and went to the other while we waited for this one to open.	No notes from Warren.	Rustic, earthy. No chairs at bar. A nice outside area. Total difference from the place across the street. Several rooms of the main bar, including one with a skylight. Very homey bar: candles on wooden tables, checked tablecloths.	La Binchoise Biere des Ours	Binchoise	8.4	Honey Beer	bottle	120	No notes from Warren.	Honeyed aroma. Sweet. Some spiciness. Crisp finish.
					Echte Kriek	Verhaege	5.8	Old Bruin with Kriek	bottle	75	No notes from Warren.	Our bruin--great cherry aroma, and very nice balance of cherry and malts.
					Saison D'Ezere (Autumn)	Fantome	8	Saison	750 ml bottle	280	No notes from Warren.	Spicy, herbal aromatics, crisp refreshing.
					Saison Noir (Black Ghost) 3 years old	Fantome	8	Dark ale	bottle	free	No notes from Warren.	Sour, malty roasty. Very good. Unusual.
9:55 pm	De Gans	Kloosterstraat 40 Huise Get your hotel to drive you over there!	No notes from Warren.	Homey atmosphere: fireplace, linoleum floors. Very much like someone's home. Good regular selection, enthusiastic owner, and good selection of vintage, 3 rooms: One decorated with old Eastern European beers, one in center with bar, and one with Gueuze bottles. Very Friendly crowd.	Liefman's Kriek - 25 years old	Liefman's	7	Flanders bruin	bottle	390	No notes from Warren.	Beautifully balanced. Tart, mellow, delicious.
					Extra Ville many years old, from defunct brewery	Alland Grootempl?	6?	Oud Bruin	bottle		No notes from Warren.	Tart, sherryish, very well-balanced.
At this point, the crowd was so friendly, and it was our last day, that even I stopped taking notes. We had a couple more beers, and enjoyed the company. I remember having a Rocheforte 10 as my last beer and Warren had a Westvleren 12, which were bought for us, I can no longer remember what other beers we had.												