

UW-Marathon County Library and Technology Restroom Reader

This issue is dedicated to interesting facts relating to the History of the World.

Some of the first written records in Mesopotamia (Iraq) are inventories for jugs of wine.

Around 850 AD, monks in the Kaffa region of Ethiopia apparently began using a drink brewed from the red berries of a local bush to help them stay alert. According to a popular story, they learned of the berries from a local goat herder, who had observed how frisky his animals got after eating the “berries” — which eventually became known as coffee.

In the 1840s, American fraudsters planted silver-plated copies of Carthaginian coins across North America, claiming the Phoenicians had discovered the New World about seventeen hundred years before Columbus.

In 1040, a Scottish lord murdered the incumbent king and assumed the throne. He held it until 1057, when the dead king’s son avenged his pop. The usurper’s name was Macbeth. Somebody eventually wrote a play about it.

One of the tricks used by the Parthian armies was to send mounted archers into the enemy’s ranks, fire a fusillade, and then retreat. But pursuers often got a nasty surprise: The Parthians would turn in their saddles, reload, and fire off another volley. Then it was “a Parthian shot.” Today we call it “a parting shot.”

During the first century CE, some of the classier homes in Rome were built with terracotta tubes embedded in the walls. The tubes carried warm air from fires in the basement: the first central heating systems.

Helpful hints from your Library and Technology staff.

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- Always save your work to your home folder (My Documents) or your departmental shared drive. We back those up daily.
- To reduce the size of your email box, delete old Sent items and empty Deleted items periodically. Also save large attachments to your home folder (My Documents) and delete the message.

If you need library or technology help please send an email to MTHIT@UWC.EDU