From Bean to Cup: a history of coffee

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What this UDLS is not

- How to make coffee
  - ABCs of Brewing Coffee
    ■ alexandru totolici, 5 Oct 2012

- Where to find coffee
  - Coffee Shops Around Vancouver
    ■ Michael Firmin, 13 Sep 2013
What this UDLS is

- Exploration into the origins of coffee
- Depiction of coffee in cultures past and present
- Fun coffee trivia
So what is coffee, anyway?

- Contrary to popular belief, coffee is not a ‘bean’
- It is the seed of the coffea cherry
  - From the Coffea plant
  - Native to Southern Africa and Tropical Asia
- Two Species: Arabica and Robusta
Great. So how does it turn into the delicious beverage we know and love?
Picking

- Cherries are generally hand picked
- One major harvest per year (April-Jun)
  - In some regions a second, smaller one in December
Processing

- **Wet Process**
  - Sorted by immersion in water
    - Ripe fruit sinks, unripe floats
  - Fruit is stripped from the seed
    - Remaining pulp removed by fermentation
  - Sun or machine dried
Processing

● Dry Processing
  ○ Traditional method
  ○ Dirt, soil, leaves removed with a large sieve in a process called winnowing
  ○ Unripe cherries removed by hand
  ○ Sun dried
Milling

- Remove the remaining husk
- Sort by density, size, and color
  - Generally all automated
Remaining Steps

- Roast
- Grind
- Brew
- Enjoy!
Origins of Coffee in Legend

- Abu al-Hasan al-Shadhili
  - North-African Islamic scholar
  - Discovered birds ‘of unusual vitality’ in Ethiopia
  - Upon eating the same berries as the birds, experienced the same vitality
Dancing Goats

- Ethiopian goat herders noticed the effects of caffeine on their goats
- When presented to the Monks, they disapproved and threw them in the fire.
- The enticing smell led to today’s drink
Origins of Coffee

- Originated in the Sufi monasteries of Yemen in southern Arabia
  - Caught on as a replacement for alcohol, which was banned
- 16th Century
  - 1511 - Coffee banned by theological court in Mecca, overturned in 1524
  - 1554 - First coffeehouse opens in Constantinople
  - 1580 - News of ‘black water’ spreads to Italy
1600 - Pope Clement VIII’s advisors asked him to ban the ‘drink of the devil.’

- Upon tasting it, he found it delicious and gave it the Papal Approval
- This caused its rapid spread through the Catholic world
Penny University

- 17th Century - First Coffeehouses open in London.
  - They charge a penny for entrance, and provide newspapers, bulletins, gossip, etc.
  - Frequentled by university students
  - The first of these led to the formation of the Oxford Coffee Club, now known as the Royal Society
A Proclamation for the Suppression of Coffee Houses

- Coffee is called into question in the Women’s Petition Against Coffee
- King Charles II responds by banning coffee houses
- Reverted a year later
Coffee In France

- Late 1600s - Coffee reaches Paris, and coffee houses begin to appear
- 1710 - An infusion brewing process is developed
- 1713 - King Louis XIV’s court is the first to add sugar to coffee
- 1723 - French naval officers introduce coffee plantations to the Americas
Coffee Cantata

- Bach’s one act comedic opera on coffee addiction
- Some choice quotes:
  - “If I can’t drink my bowl of coffee three times daily, then in my torment I will shrivel up like a piece of roast goat.”
  - “That as well, only I beg of you, leave me my coffee!”
Coffee Cantata

Coffee Cantata
(Bach BWV 211)

Soprano - Sumi Jo
Freedom Beverage

1773 - The Boston Tea Party leads to a revolt against tea, making coffee the patriotic beverage of America
• 1800s - Brazilian independence leads to massive coffee cultivation
  ○ Produces 600,000 bags annually, 25% of world production
  ■ By 1900, this rose to 90%
  ○ Followed by Cuba, Haiti, and Java
  ○ Coffee prices reach all-time lows
  ○ Coffee continues to spread all around the world
Instant Coffee

- Invented in 1906 by George Washington
  - An English Chemist living in Guatemala

Not this George Washington
Italy and Espresso

- 1905 - Desiderio Pavoni produces the first commercialized espresso machine, based on Luigi Bezzera’s 1901 design
- Local authorities would control price, provided the drink was consumed standing up
- Spreads to the English speaking world in the form of lattes and cappuccino
Modern Day Coffee

- 1971 - Alfred Peet of Peet's coffee and friends open the first Starbucks in Pike's Place Market in Seattle
  - Originally sold only whole roasted beans, not brewed coffee
Tim Hortons

- Tim Hortons opens in Ontario in 1964
  - Originally had only coffee and donuts on the menu
Third Wave Coffee

- **Coffee as an artisanal foodstuff**
  - Independently owned coffee shops
  - Focus on flavor of the beans rather than the roast
Coffee Consumption Today

The US alone drinks 400 million cups per day (2011)
WALLY, DO YOU EVER WONDER ABOUT YOUR PURPOSE IN LIFE?

MY PURPOSE IS TO TRANSPORT HUGE QUANTITIES OF COFFEE FROM THE COFFEE MAKER TO A URINAL.

SUDDENLY I AM FILLED WITH DESPAIR.

HEY, WHILE YOU'RE UP...