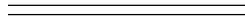


HASHISH!



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And now, borne far through the steaming air floats an odor, balsamic, startling; the odor of those plumes and stalks and blossoms from which is exuding freely the narcotic resin of the great nettle.

—Allen (1900) from *The Reign of Law*

PREFACE

HASHISH! is a wide-ranging teaching and reference work for *Cannabis* enthusiasts. (*Cannabis* is the genus name for the marijuana or hemp plant.) The text and illustrations include much scholarly information about hashish history and cultures, traditional and contemporary manufacture and consumption, new high-tech production innovations, and the science of hashish. Personal travels, investigations, observations, and research in the underground and above-ground worlds of hashish reinforce conclusions based on scholarly evidence. A strong effort has been made to illuminate areas of contention and to clarify misconceptions or perceived contradictions.

HASHISH! investigates natural processes, both ancient and modern, for the growth, collection, and purification of *Cannabis* resin glands, the plant parts that contain the psychoactive constituents in hashish. Ultimately, this book is intended for smokers blessed with a plentiful supply of *Cannabis* flowers and who possess a burning desire to produce high-quality hashish. *HASHISH!* will feed the dreams of *Cannabis* lovers waiting for the opportunity to use their new-found knowledge.

There are no lies in *HASHISH!* My intention is not to raise false expectations but to inspire and to present factual, useful information. Fewer than one in ten who read this book *have ever* smoked and *might never* smoke truly great hashish, but *HASHISH!* does describe how truly great hashish can and soon will be manufactured. I am convinced that homegrown hashish will become the *Cannabis* craze of the twenty-first century. Domestic marijuana production in Western nations, which formerly only consumed hashish, rapidly is reaching levels where homegrown hashish production becomes economically viable. Eventually, hashish will become the mainstay of recreational *Cannabis* use. My hope is that, within this next decade, high-quality hashish once again will be legally available worldwide!

HASHISH! analyzes and differentiates factual information from Old World folklore and hippie folktales. My information comes from many sources: I consulted explorers, travelers, scientists, and followers of the Hippie Hashish Trail, which went from Tangiers and Ibiza to Istanbul through Iran to Afghanistan, and on to Goa, Delhi, and Katmandu. My conclusions are based on historical accounts, counterculture books, and scientific

journals, combined with extensive personal travels, interviews, and experiments. Given the illegality of hashish-related activities, some sources understandably hesitated to go on record. On occasion, readers are asked to accept certain information as fact without citation. All first-hand sources deliver information colored by opinion and personal agenda. As Kerr (1877) said of his sources, “In Monghyr, [a flat-ganja smoking area] I was told that the consumers could not smoke the round sort on account of its greater narcotic power. These opinions, I need hardly say, are of no value, formed as they are by men biased by old habits and prejudices.”

Travelers of the Hippie Trail and those involved with the less-than-legal aspects of the hashish culture left no written records for public perusal. Some sources told differing stories when recounting memories of the same experiences. Information from these sources was weighed in an attempt to sort out the “truth.” Likewise, with customs and law enforcement officials who had made forensic investigations, I considered their individual biases.

In addition to tracing the fascinating history of hashish from ancient times through the Hippie Hashish Trail of the 1960s and 1970s, *HASHISH!* offers insights into the traditional craft of hashish-making without the use of chemical processes. Nature has provided *Cannabis* with unique glands that contain and secrete potent psychoactive resins that contain Δ^1 -tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). The **secret** of making high-quality hashish is to collect *Cannabis* resin glands in their purest form. *HASHISH!* presents the information needed to do exactly that. The reader looking for some magical chemical formula to “turn garbage into gold” or to make the “world’s most potent hash oil” should understand that this is **NOT** a chemistry book. Certainly, much of the information will be useful if that is your goal—bad hashish is all too easy to make and all too common on the world market. Bad hashish is described in order to expose it for the benefit of consumers, and low-quality hashish is described, but its production intentionally is not taught in *HASHISH!*.

The quality of both marijuana and hashish, and also the availability of hashish imported into North America and Europe, have decreased greatly since the 1970s. Concurrently, the quality and availability of domestically cultivated *Cannabis* in North America and in Europe have increased steadily in the 1990s. The prices of high-quality marijuana and hashish, both imported and domestic, have risen steadily during the development and expansion of domestic marijuana cultivation. Unfortunately, continuing *Cannabis* prohibition while market demand remains high, likely means that prices will continue to escalate through the 1990s.

Marijuana and hashish prices will not stabilize until international prohibition ends and the use of *Cannabis* as a recreational drug is once again legal. Prices never drop without a surplus. Supplies become restricted when a society prohibits a product of high demand and imposes stiff penalties for its production and distribution. Consumers’ costs rise as distributors’ risks and penalties rise. Prohibition has increased profits for producers and drug dealers, garnered more funding for law enforcers, and created

more victims for incarcerators. But after almost 60 years of effort, prohibition remains a counterproductive, destructive, and thoroughly failed policy.

The primary incentive to produce a quality product comes from Western marijuana growers who can command astronomical prices for top-quality sinsemilla. Any marijuana and hashish ultimately is salable. The shortage of marijuana and hashish relegates product quality to a secondary consideration; even poor-quality products find willing buyers.

It is too expensive for *Cannabis* consumers in North America and most Western nations to buy sufficient quantities of high-quality marijuana to make even small quantities of high-quality hashish. Consumers who wish to make hashish have two alternatives: either relocate to a *Cannabis*-growing nation where prohibition is not strictly enforced, or risk growing high-quality marijuana at home. Many smokers choose the latter despite draconian legal consequences. ***HASHISH! does not advocate breaking any law in pursuit of homegrown marijuana or homemade hashish.***

Unfortunately, most of the world's nations strongly prohibit hashish consumption, generally punishing possession of hashish more severely than possession of marijuana.



Figure 0.2. During the 1970s, hashish was shared openly in the bazaars of Afghanistan. Photo by Mingo Spade.

Afghanistan and Lebanon (historically both major hashish centers) are embroiled in political turmoil. At this writing, there are few countries where *Cannabis* enthusiasts can go to experience what remains of the world of hashish. Amsterdam is a liberal and tolerant city. This attitude extends to a progressive policy on “soft” drug use. As long as there are no problems with the neighbors and the owner’s taxes are paid, the Dutch government largely ignores sales and consumption of marijuana and hashish in “coffee shops.” Literally hundreds of these small shops currently operate in Amsterdam and many other cities and towns in the Netherlands.

Relatively safe acquisition and consumption of *Cannabis* products are also possible in Morocco, northern India, and Nepal. Acquiring and consuming hashish, even in these *Cannabis*-tolerant places, are best done with discretion and consideration for others. One is wise to draw as little attention to oneself as possible. *Discretion is the better part of valor*—be cool, don't stand out, and never cause trouble; don't ruin a good thing for everyone. In Amsterdam, one can smoke too much when in public and be stoned more safely than one can in Morocco or in Nepal. Afghanistan and Lebanon are certainly out of the question for a smoker's vacation.

HASHISH! is a guide for the reader who pursues greater knowledge of the wonderful world of hashish, but many questions remain unanswered. May this work aid and inspire future explorers in all disciplines of hashish research.



Figure 0.3. Few Westerners have ever experienced the pleasures of smoking hashish of the highest quality, such as this rubbed Manali.

INTRODUCTION



HASHISH! is by intent a teaching tool. Specific topics are presented in varying degrees of detail in different parts of the book. When reading *HASHISH!* you may prefer to move from one section to another to understand all aspects of a certain topic. For example, while reading about the manufacture of sieved hashish in Morocco, you may wish to explore sieving in Basic Hashish-Making or in High-Tech Hashish-Making for in-depth looks at sieving specifics. *HASHISH!* is divided into six **Parts**:

Part I, Hashish History, speculates on the prehistoric discovery of the euphoric properties of *Cannabis*, then surveys the history of hashish from ancient times up to about 1850. Hashish History contains an extensive, comparative time line of the history of hashish around the world and necessarily includes some history of the *Cannabis* plant. Origin myths for hashish and significant dates and events in the history of hashish are discussed at length in the text that accompanies the time line.

Part II, Hashish-Making, which answers the question “How is hashish made?” begins with descriptions of the two methods of collecting *Cannabis* resin: *hand-rubbing* and *sieving*. While hand-rubbing is the much older technique, sieving is much more common today. Prior to consumption, resin is pressed mechanically or by hand, forming the resin into a “true” piece of hashish. Pressing and storage of *Cannabis* resin are the subjects in the latter section of Part II.

Part III, Hashish Cultures, continues the history of hashish from 1850 to the present and examines 20th century hashish cultures. Some cultural practices about hashish-making are in Part II and cultural aspects of smoking and eating hashish are necessarily in Part V. In the 1960s, adventurous youth from the West (Europeans, North Americans, and Australians) began to wander through central and southern Asia and the Middle East in search of various consciousness-expanding experiences. Gurus, meditation, Eastern cultures and religions, adventure, drugs, and other exotic pleasures motivated

the exploration of faraway lands. In *HASHISH!* the word “hippie” means those adventurous youthful travelers, often drug-taking counter-culture Westerners, who ranged through the hashish cultures of the world by the thousands, beginning in the early 1960s. Hippies were not the first Westerners to journey to the East and encounter or experience hashish; the Middle and Far East have been exotic destinations for centuries, and there in many places, hashish also has been used for centuries. Collectively, the destinations of the hippie travelers are called the Hippie Hashish Trail in *HASHISH!* Hippies had a huge cultural impact on the hashish world because, as members of the “baby boom” generation, they came in enormous numbers. Very many more non-traveling Westerners discovered hashish through the accounts of their traveling friends, creating a huge demand which precipitated tremendous changes in hashish production, export, and consumption (see Figure 4.13).

Hashish Cultures presents some of the more interesting and significant events in the world of hashish in the twentieth century and relates how the Westernization of *Cannabis* consumption affected local cultures and modified *Cannabis* production and consumption patterns. Not all places described in Hashish Cultures were strictly part of the Hippie Hashish Trail, but the whole hashish-world of interest is presented.

Part IV, Constituents and Quality of Hashish, answers the questions “What is hashish?” “What is in *Cannabis* resin?” and “What are THC, cannabinoids, and terpenoids?” First, the chemical makeup of hashish is explained. The various chemical components in hashish specifically influence different hashish textures, tastes, smells, and psychoactive qualities. Environmental factors also strongly influence hashish quality, and these are examined in an analysis of hashish-making and quality.

Part V, Consumption of Hashish, details various cultural and popular aspects of hashish use. The primary reason for consuming hashish is to get “high,” and the first topic within this part attempts to quantify the extremely subjective answers to the question “What is high?” Also addressed is the question, “How does hashish make the user high?” The means and consequences of ingestion are discussed. The oldest method for consuming hashish is by eating, which produces different mental and physical effects than does inhaling hashish smoke. Also described are different techniques used to heat hashish and to cause the THC to vaporize for inhalation. A discussion of the health impacts of hashish smoking and the medicinal uses of hashish concludes this chapter.

Part VI, High-Tech Hashish-Making, presents the how and the why of modern developments for sophisticated high-technology hashish-making. Only when novel attempts are made to produce high-quality hashish are new innovations and advances in techniques developed. Were hashish production and consumption legal, Part VI, along with portions of Part II, would be the “how to” Parts.

The detailed **Table of Contents** and the **Index** should help the reader quickly find and cross-reference any particular topic.

A **Glossary** is included for quick reference of all terms that may be unfamiliar, although almost all entries are defined when they first appear in the text.

A **Bibliography** of references cited in the text is listed alphabetically by authors' names and publication dates for those interested in further study, or who want to examine a reference in more detail.

The **Appendix** catalogs the worldwide hashish market over the past 25 years, based on underground sources and seizure reports.

The **cartoons** by Roddy Heading illustrate "hippie folklore" and misconceptions.

The **drawings** by Robin Ade illustrate local practices and apparatus in each of the major hashish-producing areas.

Making high-quality hashish basically is no more complex than concentrating the psychoactive THC by isolating and consolidating the *Cannabis* resin glands. Resin glands can be collected by several techniques, each of which can produce extremely potent hashish **when performed correctly**; the correct procedures are clearly explained. Low-quality hashish can be manufactured by both sieving and rubbing. Low-quality hashish is produced in every hashish-producing region, sadly, in too great amounts.

The price of both American and European *Cannabis* is now so high that the dried flowers sell at prices higher than those of hashish imported from traditional hashish-making nations. Under these circumstances, high-quality hashish manufactured from domestic *Cannabis* remains far too expensive for the market to bear. In the very near future, both European and North American hashish will begin to be produced from domestic *Cannabis*. It will occur on a very limited scale at first, but occur it will. As demand inevitably increases, so does production.

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Figure 0.4. Enjoying a day in a field of hashish plants in Lebanon. Photo by Judy Sky.