

WORD-WOVEN WORLDS OF THE WORD-LEAF

*A Cocaficionado's
Pharmacognostical Pæan*

JONATHAN OTT



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Erythroxylum coca LAMARCK VAR. *coca* LAMARCK [Erythroxylaceæ],
A. Mariani: *AHPÍ/COCA/GÜEYO/HAYO*, source of COCAINE; principal
Circum-Caribbean entheogen; SNUFF and AYAHUASCA -ADMIXTURE.

COCAINE PROËMIUM
Cocaball or, ¡Coca-Cola Sí, Coca-Ína No!

The DRUG had no discriminating action: it was
neither DIABOLICAL nor DIVINE...

Robert Louis Stevenson
Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde [1886]

After a 1994 World Cup-qualifying-match, between Bolivia and Brasil, in La Paz on 25 July 1993, Bolivian defender M.Á. Rimba and Brazilian goalkeeper A.D. Quagliato were suspended from all competition, when random drug-tests disclosed COCAINE-residues in their urine. Just prior to the match, both apparently had drunk *MATE DE COCA* (COCA-tea), which is a traditional remedy for *sorojche* (‘altitude-sickness’—the capital of Bolivia sits at altitude of ~3,640 M/ ~2.26 MILES) [Baker 1969]: despite the fact, that the Bolivian ‘Selection’, had prohibited it, to ‘side’-members; along with (COCA-containing) *Coca-Cola*.TM A storm of protest BLEW-UP, in the Bolivian Press: which joined Rimba’s sidemates, and Bolivia’s government, in a trenchant defense of their footballer. Meanwhile, citing the precedent suspensions of various players, for (purported) COCAINE-use—notably, the notorious Argentine COCABALLER, Diego Maradona, in 1991—the Brazilian National Selection BOOTED Quagliato on 3 August: a day after the suspensions had been decreed, by international *Fußball-Führer* FIFA. Bolivian Authorities hastily convened a: ‘little COCA-school’, to elaborate scientific arguments in Rimba’s defense (principally based-on the distinction between COCA-tea, and COCAINE; and the athletically-insignificant levels of the latter, found in the former: which after all is legal in Bolivia, Perú and Argentina) [Hilgers *et al.* 2001].

On 4 August the CRACK COCACOLLEGE faxed their 168-page COCAPOLOGIA to the FIFA-headquarters, in Zürich—which organization then astounded the World, by rescinding these suspensions, merely two days later [Cabieses 1994]. Bolivia’s COCLAQUE cited a 1986 Usan study, which had detected (the average of) merely 4.8 MG of COCAINE, in *Health Inca Tea*.TM (tea-bags, containing 1.0 G of *Erythroxylum novogranatense* VAR. *truxillense*); and 5.7 MG of COCAINE, in *Mate de Coca*.TM (likewise, containing *E. coca* VAR. *coca*): both exported by Peruvian COCA-monopoly ENACO (la EMPRESA NACIONAL DE LA COCA), and openly sold in the United States, as of around December 1983. The COCAINE-metabolite, BENZOYL-ECGONINE, readily can

be detected in the urine of *COCA*-tea-drinkers, and the scientific report (which they most particularly had cited—as fundamental to their argument) had remarked:

...most of the **COCAINE** can be released from the [*COCA*-] leaves in a simple [hot aqueous] infusion.

It further was reported, that some (the more) intelligent users obtained a heightened stimulation: by sucking these tea-bags, with *SODIUM-BICARBONATE* (NaHCO_3 : I have done this myself—and *three* tea-bags constitutes rather an acceptable dose; assuming that tea be *fresh*)—smoking *COCA*-leaf-fragments; or making concentrated *ALCOHOLIC* extracts of same... furthermore, parenthetically, it was mentioned, that one user:

...complained of severe agitation after drinking an infusion of 80 [*COCA*-] tea-bags [containing some 384–456 MG of **COCAINE**!].

Finally, it was estimated, that annual Usan sales amounted to 1.5 MILLION tea-bags (or: approximately some 7.8 KG of **COCAINE**), and claimed, that *COCA*-tea had been administered, as a «**COCAINE**-substitute», to (so-called) «patients», in: «at least one **COCAINE**-treatment [*sic*] -center»; proving to be «energizing» and of help in «eas[ing] withdrawal [*sic*: such *doesn't exist*] from **COCAINE**» [Elsohly *et al.* 1986; Siegel *et al.* 1986]. Another Bolivian study had found approximately 1.0 MG of **COCAINE**, in a typical (100 ml cup) of *MATE DE COCA* (usually made from whole leaves)—replicating some results of 1991 [Ferreira Engelke & Gentner 1991; Villena & Sauvain 1997].

Much as we should like to be persuaded, that the *COCAVERSE* FIFA might have been susceptible to any scientific reasoning, it rather appears (as we ought to have surmised), that cold *COCA-CASH* instead had prevailed: FIFA had been convinced, to annul those suspensions, by Roberto Goizueta, the Cuban-American President, of COCA-COLA CO. [Zambrana Román 1996]. As one sponsor, of the World Cup-Finals in the United States, these *COKE-CUTS* were much too close to the bone, for COCA-COLA CO.: inasmuch as their sacrosanct «black waters of imperialism» *still* are being confected with *COCA-LEAVES*. Prior to 1903, it is estimated that a typical dose (made using 1–4 FL.OZ. of syrup [29.5–118.3 ML]) had contained 7–28 MG of **COCAINE** [Karch 1998B] (whose calculations are wrong); while «*Coca-Cola*TM-FIENDS» were known to consume UP TO 12 GLASSES at a single sitting (or: as much as 336 MG of **COCAINE**) [Spillane 1999]! Indeed in 1985 COCA-COLA CO. had made a disastrous attempt to expunge those embarrassing *COCA-LEAVES* from their exsanguinate elixir (the ill-starred *New Coke*TM: mayhap, appropriately yclept, *No Coke*TM!)—only to relapse, to bread-and-butter *Coca-Cola Classic*TM—less than three months thereafter

[Pendergrast 1993]! The wrteched blunder became a brilliant marketing-strategem!

This tawdry affair echoes the dawn of ‘doping’ in modern sports: the furor raised, when the Usan race-walker, E.P. Weston—he, who had sucked *COCA*, throughout the race—defeated the British Champion, in London—this (*way* ahead of his time) *COCATHLETE*, however, neither was divested of his gold-medal, nor piss-tested, like some race-nag [Weston 1876]! Later, that famed *COCA-CENOLOGIST*, Angelo Mariani [1885, 1892], had boasted, that his *Vin Mariani*TM had been awarded: «a Gold Medal and Diploma», in Leamington, England; and that the Prize-Jury had dubbed it: «WINE for athletes»—much like that French *Velo-Coca*TM—a WINE, made especially for cyclists—while *COCA* once had catalyzed a World-Championship-Season, for the (*amateur*) Toronto La Crosse-Club [Mortimer 1901]. Be a ‘WINER’! Do say YES!, to sports!... to *COCÆROBICS* (pioneered—incidentally—by Sigmund Freud [1885A]).

As quite an ironic *COCADDENDUM*: the inaugural match of those 1994 World Cup-Finals, (eventually) had pitted Bolivia (being the [undisputed] World’s Champion *COCA*-consumer), against Germany (where *COCAINE* first had been isolated, *HORNED*, manufactured and marketed), within the United States (as always, the *COCAMPEÓN*, of *COCAINE*-consumption)—and all of this, under that blowing, blood-red, ‘classic’ banner... of *COKELESS* (and *COCKAMAMIE*!)—‘Just Say No Coke’—*Coca-Cola*TM!

Meanwhile, football-fans (alike... *the rest* of us), await some *COCAÏNAUGURATION*, of *True Coke*TM... *Snow Coke*TM, as that might be... or, mayhap, *Coca-Cola White*TM (actually, there once *was* a WHITE, or *clear* version: compounded secretly, for Josef Stalin!)—betimes, making everything *BLOW* better... with that *GENUINE* ol’ classic, *Mama Coke[aine]*TM. That, most definitely, should be *my own* shot-in-goal! In such a spirit, the Colombian Indigenous group, the Paëz [Antonil 1978], launched *Coca Sek*TM: utilizing ~150 KG of *COCA*, for every 30,000 bottles (or: roughly ~40 MG of *COCAINE* *per* bottle—*THAT*’s more like it!)—but—alas!—this never widely was sold; while the Colombian government prohibited it, in 2007. In 2010, *COCALERO* (alike, the former President, of Bolivia!), Evo Morales, introduced *Coca Colla*TM, having an unknown *COCA*-content—evidently, in a concerted attempt to reconstitute ‘*THE REAL THING*’ [Anon. 2010]! [*Vide*: Muñoz 2000, on this «*pre-Columbian Treasure*»; and Grinspoon & Bakalar 1976; Rättsch & Ott 2003; for general *COCA*-information.]

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