

Part of my cellar

Amolith

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Continuing with my journey into the world of pipe smoking, I thought I would show what my *cellar*¹ looks like. It's not much—just some jars and a pipe stand on my dresser—but it's more than what I've seen some other people have². I'll talk about tobacco in another post; this one is just about what's on the left of the picture below. The paper is something I saw in a YouTube video and I thought it was a really cool idea; rather than pinching your tobacco out of the jar, sprinkling it into the bowl, and inevitably spilling some, simply dump it onto a sheet of paper. From there, you can pull apart any clumps that may have formed, fill the bowl, then fold the paper in half lengthwise and pour what's left back into to the jar.

The small stand to the right of the big one is the [Single Pipe Stand from SmokingPipes](#). I do like it but it's really only suitable for pipes with straight³ stems; with bent stems, the mouthpiece ends up resting on the table. I haven't tried it but I would recommend going with the [solid version](#) if you're wanting a stand for a single pipe because it's more versatile. The larger one, below, is the [Woodmere 6 Pipe Stand](#) from the same website. It has the same problem as the first but it's not as pronounced; pipes with bent stems need to be pushed forward in the divot in the base so they can lean back against the bar. Otherwise, the weight of the stem and shank⁴ will cause them to fall forward.

Pipes will be described further down so the next thing is the metal object that looks like a sink drain. It's a [wind cap from The Country Squire](#) (which also has [a great podcast](#)). I've found it to be very handy at my university when it's windy. The next item is just a simple “Czech pipe tool” that can be purchased from pretty much any store that sells pipes, both brick-and-mortar and online retailers. The last thing is a Zippo *pipe* lighter. These are entirely different from

¹In this context, a cellar is simply a place to store pipes and pipe tobacco. When someone says they're going to *cellar* their tobacco, they mean they're going to prepare it for long-term storage.

²One was literally just a cardboard box with some jars inside and a few pipes laying on top. There's nothing wrong with that but I prefer to have a little more space.

³The stem is the part of the pipe where the mouthpiece is. In these pictures, it's opalescent for the first, marbled for the second, and solid black for the third.

⁴The shank is where the stem is inserted; it's in between that and the bowl and made from the same material as the bowl.



Figure 1: Picture of my dresser with some pipes, accessories, and tobacco. To the right, there are 12 big jars of tobacco along with a smaller one. On the left is my half-full pipe stand with three pipes in it, my lighter, a pipe tool, a wind cap, a smaller single stand to the right, and a sheet of paper in the front.

normal Zippo lighters because they're meant to be held sideways over the bowl of a pipe. This design lets you put the flame directly to the tobacco rather than drawing it over the side of the bowl and scorching the rim. I ordered mine from Amazon a year or so ago but have since stopped using Amazon due to ethical and privacy concerns. I can't find the same product on [Zippo's website](#) so here's a link to it from [Wal-mart](#). I also dislike using Wal-mart but it's marginally better than Amazon.

Now the fun part :wink: The first pipe I got was the [Missouri Pride from Missouri Meerschaum](#). An *excellent* starter pipe, I ended up giving it to my room mate after he showed an interest in the hobby. However, a close friend of mine had given me one of his old pipes and I fell in love with it. Unfortunately, I know absolutely *nothing* about it other than it was made by [Mauro Armellini](#), an Italian craftsman who died several years ago. I'm considering sending an email to the company and seeing if they can tell me anything about it. On one side of the shank is the name *Mauro Armellini*, the bottom has the number 705, and the other side says *Verona* with the word *ARCOBALENO* below it. If anyone reading this knows something about the pipe, please let me know.

The first "real" pipe I bought myself was a churchwarden⁵ from [Nørding Pipes](#).

⁵*Churchwarden* refers to the length of the pipe. There are many theories about why it's named so but one I find interesting is that it's after real [churchwardens](#). They would have to stay up all night guarding the church and couldn't be expected to go that long without smoking. However, the smoke from a traditional pipe would often obscure their vision because it was so close to their face. The churchwarden was invented so the bowl was significantly

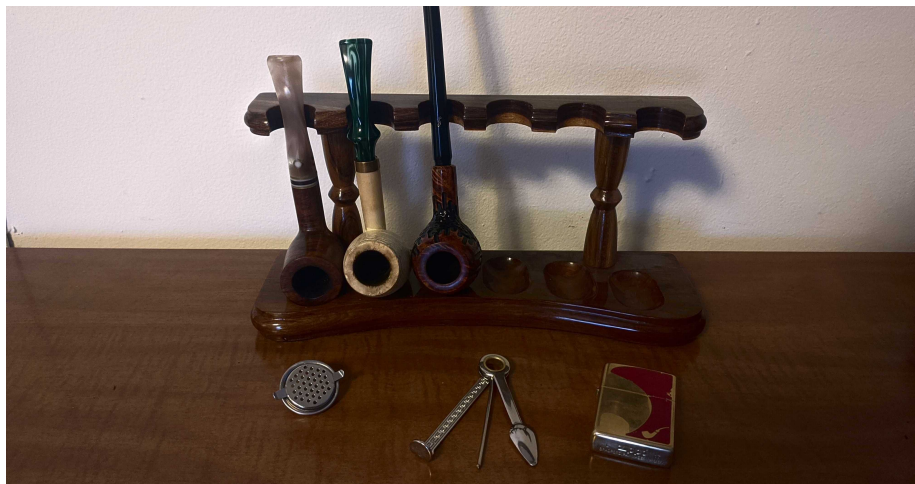


Figure 2: This picture is pretty much the same as the earlier one but without the tobacco and paper.



Figure 3: A picture of my pipe from Mauro Armellini. It's sitting on my porch rail with the yard in the background; the grass is a light green and the leaves of the woods further on are darker. The pipe is a rich brown with a cream-coloured opalescent stem. There is a mother-of-pearl inlay on top of the stem.

If you're curious about the company or the founder, Erik Nørding, listen to this episode of the [Country Squire Radio](#). After I heard it, I decided to make one of their pipes my first purchase. What I ended up getting was a Partially Rusticated⁶ Churchwarden from [SmokingPipes](#). I've been using it for a month or so now and absolutely love it, especially when I'm sitting on the porch reading or going lunting⁷.



Figure 4: This is also a picture of a pipe on my porch rail. It is significantly longer at about 10.5 inches or 265 millimetres. The stem has a gentle curve. The bowl is the same deep brown as the Armellini pipe but the finish is newer so it shines more. The rustication will be hard to describe. The rest of the pipe is brown but the rusticated part is black. The texture is rough but smooth—the edges that might have been jagged were sanded down. The bottom of the bowl is what's rusticated; the top is normal. When held upside down, it almost looks as if the rusticated part is dripping onto the normal part and the same for the stem.

My latest acquisition is [The Emerald](#) from [Missouri Meerschaum](#). It is a corn cob pipe but not like the Missouri Pride; this model has very obviously been sanded smooth and sealed so that it *almost* feels like finished wood. The stem is a higher quality acrylic than their other models and much more pleasant to look at as well. This is the model they released for Saint Patrick's Day in 2019 but, due to popular demand, they started producing it again. I'm hoping to

further away and wouldn't get in their line of sight.

⁶Rustication is the process of adding texture to the bowl (or shank) of a pipe. Generally, this is done to hide imperfections in the briar so the pipe still looks good. Personally, I stay away from *fully* rusticated pipes not just because I don't like the aesthetics but because the wood is likely poor quality. This is certainly not *always* the case, however.

⁷Lunting is *the act of taking a leisurely stroll whilst smoking a tobacco pipe* ([Lunting.org](#)). When I go hiking, I'll often take my pipe with me; it's a calm and contemplative time to simply think and enjoy a good tobacco.

purchase this year's as well and start building a collection.



Figure 5: This pipe is a light cream colour. The bowl looks like the cob of an ear of corn (that's what it is) with a short wooden tube sticking out of it. The bent stem is a deep marbled green.

This last picture is of me sitting on my porch with a book, my churchwarden, my lighter, and my pipe tool. It was a warm and peaceful afternoon and I had a strong urge to capture the moment because this is one of the *big* reasons I enjoy smoking a pipe. In the rigorous life of a university student, musician, and systems administrator, this is my rare chance to just slow down and simply be in the moment without worrying over anything else.



Figure 6: In this picture, you can see the top edge of the book I'm reading, my crossed legs resting on the porch rail, my churchwarden to the left, and my light and pipe tool to the right. This is the same "warm" scene as described in the picture of Armellini's pipe; it's very peaceful