

## **CAPTAIN ROBERT WHYMPER MC (1898-1903)**

He was born on 22 June 1885 and studied his City and Guilds at the London Institute between 1903 and 1907. He then became a research scholar for the Salters Company in 1907.

He then appears to have specialised in the glorious research of chocolate – I guess someone has to!!

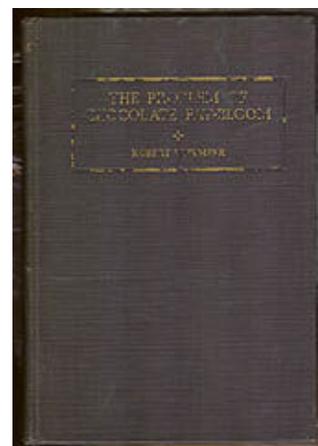
He wrote a number of books on the subject :-

“Cocoa & chocolate, their chemistry & manufacture” – an illustrated bibliography – 1911

“The Manufacture of Confectionary” – 1923

“The Problem of Chocolate Fat-bloom” – 1933 - I found the following review of this book :-

Another cool Ebay purchase! Not as old as the Baker one but just as nice. 147 pages. On the inside cover is an ink stamp from the “Washington Chocolate Co.”, so I guess this was part of their library at one time. This book is pretty technical and not so much entertaining as Baker’s book. Whympers goes through some pretty complex tempering discussions involving crystalizations, melting points, and other fancy chemistry terms. I liked it because I had a big interest in the chemistry of chocolate and a) it was hard to find a book that talked about it and b) when they did talk about it, they always referenced Whympers book.



In the text I noticed that he often used the celcius scale rather than fahrenheit, and in his Preface, he makes the note that he used the centigrade scale for all the “scientific data” and the fahrenheit scale for all the “factory” information.

The Preface in the book starts with the following line, which I took as a rather snippy comment on the industry:

*“I am told that this is a most inopportune moment to bring before the Chocolate Industry any matter not directly connected with either cheapening the price of, or increasing the profits from, its products.”*

Whympers also has a dedication in the front of book as follows:

*“Dedicated to QUETZALCOATL who brought down from Heaven the Food of the Gods, and, once upon a time, taught Men how It should be Grown and Used.”*

NOTE: Quetzalcoatl was the Aztec name for the god who was said to have given cacao (chocolate) to people.

During WW1 he served in the East Surrey Regiment, attached to Royal Engineers, later Royal Army Services Corps. He was awarded a Military Cross on 4 June 1917 “For distinguished service in the field”.