

Preface

The aim of this book is to provide an insight into, arguably, the most ancient form of biotechnology on this planet. Given the remit regarding the size of the finished article, it has been necessary to be rather selective in a number of subject areas. The responsibility for this selectivity is entirely mine. This project represents the first tome to be written by a practising brewer in these Isles for many years; which, in part, explains the protracted period of time between commissioning and publication of this book. It is somewhat difficult to run one's own business and undertake a creative writing project at the same time. On this point, I must sincerely thank the editorial staff at the RSC for their forbearance.

For my own part, interest in the products emanating from the processes described herein has been extensive, and this fact, together with an innate interest in the technologies themselves, has meant that the task of writing the book has been far from onerous.

I wish to thank my many colleagues in the brewing industry who have made helpful suggestions during the compilation of this work; their contributions have helped greatly. I must stress, however, that any errors in the text are entirely my responsibility.

Finally, I thank my wife for her fortitude and tolerance during the long hours of preparation.

This book is dedicated to my parents.

Ian S. Hornsey

