

14<sup>th</sup> Convention

July 1980

**S.C.I. CONVENTION XIV**

**JULY 17 - 20, 1980**

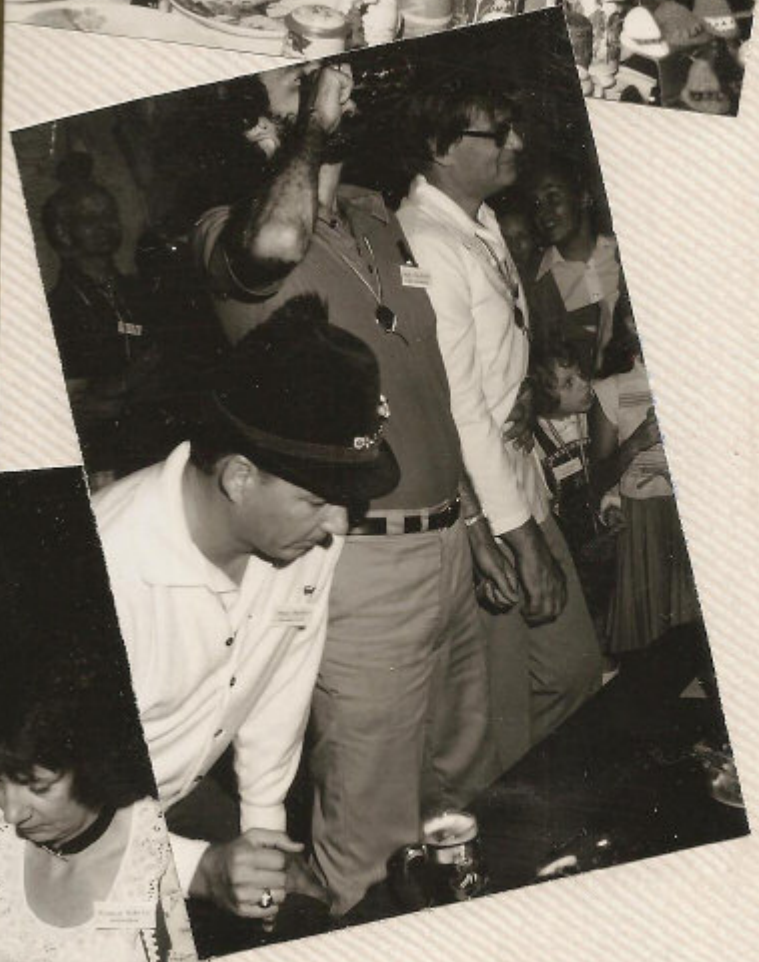
**HOLLENDEN HOUSE**

**CLEVELAND, OH**



**Master Steinologist: John Ey, Jr.**

**Miss Beer Stein: Lois Wagenknecht**













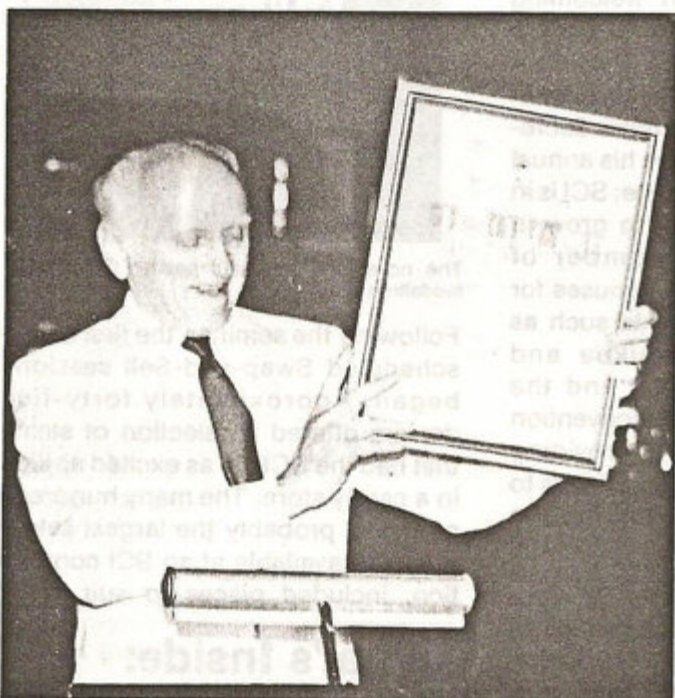
# Prosit

No. 61 The Quarterly Bulletin of Stein Collectors International®

Sept. 1980

## Double Whammy:

## Heat Wave and SCI Steiners hit CLEVELAND



Master Steinologist John Ey, Jr., displaying his award



Chug-a-lugger Tom McClelland giving it a mighty try—as Bob Wilson and Mark Durban look on in obvious amazement

## 14th SCI Convention Sets Attendance Record

Photography by Don Forster, Jim Talley, Elbert Innis, Mike Wald and John Mertz

In SCI's largest convention ever, 316 stein enthusiasts descended on Cleveland for four days of talking tankards and sipping suds. The *Buckeye Stein Verein* had assembled an imaginative program which featured unique surroundings for dining and a well-paced series of stein-oriented activities. Headquartered in the classy and comfortable *Hollenden House*, steiners from the four corners of the world began assembling as

early as Sunday to share in the *Gemuettlichkeit* of our annual gathering.

SCI's legendary good-weather luck finally ran out; the heat wave that had engulfed virtually the entire country moved into Ohio on Tuesday and remained for the period of the convention. It was rumored that the heat was brought north by members from the Lone Star State, who no longer needed it at home. Yet the high

temperature only seemed to warm the enthusiasm of our SCI comrades for the exciting events that were about to take place.

### Wednesday, July 16

Registration began on Wednesday afternoon and SCI members were presented with bulging Goodie Bags and a striking pewter medallion commemorating the 14th Annual Convention. The Convention Commemorative Steins were distributed



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on Thursday, delayed one day by delivery to the wrong hotel (Murphy's Law at work). But the stein was worth waiting for: Hand-cut into the green overlay glass body was a cluster of buckeye leaves and nuts; the thumb-lift portrayed the burr of the buckeye, the state tree of Ohio. This most attractive stein was created for the convention by member Werner Sahn at his *Rastal-Werk* plant in Hohn-Grenzhausen, West Germany.



Al Myers and Floyd Dietlein enjoying a snack at the cocktail hour

Registration revealed an example of the enduring friendships that have developed during past conventions. The gang from bus number 7 at our 1978 excursion in Germany returned to Ohio in 1980 with 100% attendance!

The convention activities were launched on Wednesday afternoon with an Early Bird cocktail party. More and more, the Early Bird day is becoming an integral part of the convention. The cocktail party was followed by a delightful trip into Lake Erie and up the Cuyahoga River (an Indian name, meaning "crooked") on the cruise boat *Goodtime II*. The 225 participants found their sea legs while viewing the Cleveland skyline, the sprawling industrial complex in the River Flats, and the many unique bridges that span the Cuyahoga—while partaking of Gambrinus' golden brew, enjoying a buffet dinner, and



On Lake Erie on the good ship "Goodtime II"—with the Cleveland skyline as a proper backdrop

dancing to the Dixieland music of Ralph Grugel and his Eagle Jazz Band.

## Thursday, July 17

The convention officially opened on Thursday morning with welcoming remarks by Convention Chairman Bruce Holderbaum, SCI President Earl Christy and Ohio Chapter President Louis Foster. Executive Secretary Jack Lowenstein gave his annual State-of-the-Union message: SCI is in robust health, continues to grow in terms of members, number of chapters, and in special bonuses for its members. Added events such as the New York, Milwaukee and Gambrinus stein shows, and the planned mid-winter mini-convention in Fort Lauderdale are providing additional opportunities for SCI'ers to join with their stein collecting cronies throughout the year.

In the afternoon, John A. Ey, Jr. wove a fascinating tale of his acquisition of a faience tankard, dated 1776, which portrayed George Washington cutting down his father's cherry tree. John's talk, intriguingly titled "I Cannot Tell a Lie", disclosed that the first published record of this famous event appeared in Mason Locke



Mike Wald (of "HR Steins" fame), Gene Manusov and Warren Moffett at the Early Bird cocktail party

Weems' book in 1806; this tankard "scooped" Weems' account by a full 30 years.

This presentation was followed by two of Mark Durban's lighthearted and amusing movies, entitled "Stein Crazy, Part II" and "The Krug Kaper". Both were done in the slapstick style of the early silent flicks and each featured that mustachioed squire of Monterey Park, Frank Poppie, in the leading role.



The novel and beautiful pewter Convention medallion

Following the seminar, the first of two scheduled Swap-and-Sell sessions began. Approximately forty-five dealers offered a selection of steins that had the SCI'ers as excited as kids in a candy store. The many hundreds of steins, probably the largest selection ever available at an SCI convention, included pieces to suit every

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STEIN COLLECTORS INTERNATIONAL  
Minutes of Board Meeting, Cleveland

July 17, 1980 - The eighth annual Board Meeting of Stein Collectors International was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by President Earl Christy, with the following Officers and Board Members in attendance:

Earl Christy	Jack Lowenstein
Patrick Clarke	Eugene Manusov
Mary Durban	Warren Moffett
Matthew Gruskin	Rosemarie Sahn
Terry Hill	Ridge Scott
Irving Johnsen	Kurt Sommerich
Dezso Ladanyi	Leslie Whitham
Ernestine Lambertus	

The meeting was also attended by eighteen presidents and/or representatives of regional chapters of SCI.

A. President Earl Christy opened the meeting with a "State of the Steiners" report, noting that SCI is healthy and growing, with 978 members, 11 chapters and a wide range of activities.

B. The minutes of the Board Meetings of June 28 and 29, 1979 were read by Recording Secretary Irv Johnsen. Kurt Sommerich requested that the minutes be amended to show that the vote in favor of the motion to reimburse Rosemarie Sahn for the 1978 convention cost over-run was unanimous. A motion to incorporate this addition was made by Dezso Ladanyi, seconded by Gene Manusov and passed unanimously.

C. The Treasurer's report was read by Treasurer Pat Clarke. A motion to accept the report as read was made by Les Whitham, seconded by Mary Durban and passed unanimously. The financial report will be published in the September PROSIT.

D. There were no committee reports.

E. Don Forster presented a written proposal for a "Jack Heimann Service Award". The proposal included a description of the award, a statement of qualifications and a selection procedure. A discussion of the many aspects of the award followed, centering on whether the final selection should be made by the general membership or by the Board. It was decided that the nominations be submitted by a nominating committee, that the nominating committee chairman be responsible for all required actions and details (including providing PROSIT with an article soliciting nominations) and that the final selection be made by vote of the Board. A motion to that effect was made by Gene Manusov, seconded by Les Whitham and passed unanimously. Costs associated with the award will be assumed by SCI, rather than the convention fund.

F. Norman Medow presented a report on the "Jack Heimann Memorial Fund", indicating a current balance of \$2083. He is still soliciting funds and is currently attempting to finalize arrangements with Dr. Shapiro for a memorial lecture to be presented at a regional medical meeting in October.

G. The final piece of old business was an extended discussion of the Board decision, made at the 1979 Convention, to reimburse Rosemarie Sahn over a three-year period for the \$10,107 cost over-run of the Rastal-Werk portion of the 1978 Convention. The discussion focused on the \$7819 portion of the over-run, which was the cost of the glass steins that were presumably a "gift" from the Sahms to the attendees. The discussion also included a review of the financial procedures of the 1978 Convention, the circumstances contributing to the cost over-run, and

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convention duties. Lois' selection was announced by the Bert Parks of SCI, "Doc" Joe Hersh, who then challenged the newly crowned queen to a one-on-one chug-a-lug contest. Lois confirmed her status as sovereign of the suds by quickly downing her mug of beer, defeating a somewhat shocked Dr. Joe. SCI's newest award, that of "Junior Miss Beer Stein", was not presented until Saturday evening, when Doc Joe picked New Jersey's Gwendolyn Tombro as SCI's prettiest teenager; in fitting fashion, Gwendolyn rewarded Joe with a kiss.



Miss Beer Stein, Lois Wagenknecht, gets the victory kiss from Doc Joe, as last year's winner, Ann Milon, beams approvingly

## Friday, July 18

Friday's activities were launched with a viewing of items that were to be sold in the afternoon's stein auction; a printed catalog was made available to prospective bidders. The steins and associated items went under auctioneer Lee Begley's hammer in the afternoon, with 93 pieces finding new owners. Through the generosity of auction consignors Gary Kirsner and Max Mellner, the *Jack Heimann Memorial Fund* was enriched by over \$500.

The Friday morning seminar found Mike Wald describing his studies since 1973 on "HR Steins". Utilizing a large number of HR's as examples, Mike covered material that was published in his recent book, plus considerable additional information. "Mr. HR" has certainly earned the gratitude of all SCI members for his outstanding efforts in researching and cataloging this important stein type.

Sharing the spotlight with Mike was Dr. Norman Medow, who spoke on "American Art Pottery". This subject was particularly appropriate to the Ohio convention, as Ohio is regarded as the "home of American Art Pottery". Norm's informative talk focused primarily on Rookwood, one of the earliest and best known manufacturers, located in Cincinnati. His illustrated presentation also covered the wares of Weller, Newcomb, and Buffalo-Deldare. Several of the pieces described by Norm were available for viewing in the Convention Stein exhibit.

A half-hour informal city tour was included en route to the site of Friday night's party, touching points of interest along the lakefront, the wooded estates of Bratenahl (at one time the most exclusive community in the country), and the cultural center of Cleveland, the University Circle area. Upon arrival at the *Crawford Auto Museum*, the conventioners were greeted by two floors of the finest and rarest of antique automobiles, a Main Street of shops that took them back to the Gay 90's, and banquet tables set in a color scheme



General von Klunk (Hannah Steckman), Tyrollian wanderer (Rosie Sahn) and the Muenchner Kindl (?)



Rosalie Koryto showing off the costume which won her First Prize in the Women's Most Authentic Costume contest



Mr. "HR" himself: New York's Mike Wald (and two of the objects of his affection)

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of burgundy and pink. But the bad news was that the museum's air conditioning system had broken down (Murphy's Law again!).

Dinner music was provided by Buckeye member Zoltan Toth and the "Viennese Strings", who filled the hall with the lilting strains of Lehar and Strauss. As one member was heard to say, "What more could one want—elegant surroundings, a superb steak dinner, candlelight, wine, and dancing a Viennese waltz!"



The winning choral group: Milwaukee's Merlin Kottke, John Mitchell, Arnie Prochep and Ray Herr—each holding the jug of squeezein's they won (a. that's maple syrup, and b., no, the vintage car was not one of the door prizes)

The evening featured the presentation of SCI's most prestigious award, that of *Master Steinologist*. This year SCI honored John A. Ey, Jr. The award, so richly deserved, was made on the basis of John's long career of stein research and his many publications in the field. It was most appropriate that John should receive this honor at the Ohio convention, since he is a native of the Buckeye state.

The annual choral contest followed, with some surprising talent displayed by the members of the various chapters. The winning group was a male quartet from Milwaukee's *Stein-jaegers*. Their performance was totally spur-of-the-moment: they



Vera Christy, Judy Miller, John Stuart and John Ey at the elegant Crawford Auto Museum

wrote the words to their song on the back of a menu, ran through a one-time rehearsal, and then brought the house down with their fine barber-shop rendition. A final event was an unexpected bonus, with Art Maethner, famous for his Gambrinus poems, favoring the group with a hilarious piece entitled "Wouldst Thou Learn Die Deutsche Sprache?"

The merrymaking continued undiminished in the busses on their return to the hotel (and in some of the hotel rooms, far into the night). On one of the busses an impromptu auction took place, with Jack Lowenstein's "Prosit" tie bringing \$40 into the Jack Heimann Memorial fund.

## Saturday, July 19

On Saturday morning the SCI Board of Directors convened at 8:00 for the third straight day. But other conventioners took the opportunity to sleep late (and to calm that throbbing



A gathering of Master Steinologists: Joe Hersh, Roland Henschen, Gene Manusov, John Ey, Therese Thomas and Jack Lowenstein (missing members of this exclusive club: Herb Jedly, Harvey Murphy, Werner Sahm and, most unfortunately, Jack Heimann)

head?) before boarding the busses for brunch at *Kiefer's Tavern*. The remainder of the day was basically unscheduled, with each attendee free to "do his own thing".

One of Cleveland's most striking landmarks, *The Old Arcade*, was the scene for the final dinner-dance. Built in 1890, its Romanesque Revival style is contemporaneous with the golden age of stein manufacture in

Germany. Tables decorated in yellow and green were distributed around the first balcony and the main floor. The 10-piece orchestra of Paul Burton provided mellow music of the 30's and 40's, bringing back memories of the big-band sounds of Glenn Miller, Hal Kemp and many other melody-makers of that era.

Following another exquisite dinner, the final awards ceremonies and the induction of officers took place. Outgoing President Earl Christy received a specially engraved ruby convention stein in recognition of his leadership over the year. The four seminar speakers were given engraved plaques carrying the Buckeye Stein Verein logo and recognition of their contribution to the convention. Bruce and Jean Holderbaum were presented with a #1526 Mettlach EPOG

(engraved plate over glaze) stein in appreciation of their outstanding performance as Chairmen of the 14th Annual Convention. The founding father of SCI, Tom McClelland, was honored with a life membership in SCI and a lifetime non-voting seat on the Board of Directors. The host *Buckeye Chapter* presented a specially engraved convention stein to "Father" Irv Johnsen for his contributions to the founding and

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**C**ollege of **S**teinology

*proudly proclaims*

**J**ohn **A** **A**y, Jr.

**M**aster **S**teinologist

*Presented by the Officers and Board of Directors*

OF

*Stein Collectors International*

at the 14<sup>th</sup> S.C.I. CONVENTION  
Cleveland, Ohio ~ JULY 19, 1980

*President ~ Earl Christy*  
*First Vice President ~ Dezso J. Ladanyi*  
*Second Vice President ~ Leslie Whitham*  
*Executive Secretary ~ Jack J. Lowenstein*  
*Recording Secretary ~ Irving Johnson*  
*Treasurer ~ Patrick J. Clarke*  
*Chairman of the Board ~ Rosemarie Sahn*

*Conce H. ...*  
CONVENTION CHAIRMAN

*Louis R. Foster*  
PRESIDENT, BUCKEYE STEIN VEREIN