

Miniature Steins

by Les Paul

The category for this issue of *Prosit's* "Miniature Steins" article is miniature brewery steins. Surprisingly, I only have a few small ceramic brewery steins. You would think they would be more plentiful, but I haven't seen many in other members' mini collections either.

figure 1



The three little 1/16th liter miniature brewery steins in figure 1 are only 3 to 3 1/4 inches tall. In between the two Pschorr Brau Steins is a cute little souvenir of an "Augustinerbraustubel".

figure 2



In figure 2 we see two 1/8 liter steins. The HB measures about 4 1/2 inches tall. That's still miniature when you consider a normal serving at the Hofbrauhaus in Munich is "ein Mass" or one full liter. Of these first ceramic steins, only the HB has a matching brewery logo on the lid. I think they wanted to keep the cost of these little souvenirs down. There are lots of different HB mini steins, but that is the subject for a future article.

Between the 1/8 liter HB and the 1/8 liter Spaten Brau stein is a tiny 1 1/2 inch painted pewter stein, the capacity of which is too small to measure. The other 20 brewery steins in figures 3-6 are similar cold painted pewter souvenirs.

figure 3



figure 4



I can't be sure about the age of these tiny pieces. It is my opinion or "guesstimate" that they were made about 50 years ago. That's time enough to explain why the paint is flaking off most of these little steins. Sometimes you see them with little or no paint at all. They also painted a Munich

figure 5



figure 6



Child or the name of a city on the same 1 1/2 inch pewter stein bodies.

On the inside of the tiny cast lids, a few of these steins are marked "K. Kratz, Moosach 123, München". I must assume this is the name and address of the distributor, or painter/decorator. I've never seen that name anywhere else. Only the first Lowenbrau, the one with the yellow lion, has a matching logo lid. All the others are just plain cast pewter. They all have the same plain handle and the same simple thumbflift too.

All but one of those pictured (the "Maier Gustl, Frankfurt am Main") is a Munich brewery. The others, alphabetically, are: Augustiner Brau (2), Eberl Brau, Franziskaner Leistbrau, Hacker Brau, HB (2), Kochel Brau, Lowenbrau (3), Mathäser Brau ("MB"), Paulaner Brau, Pschorr - Brau (3), Spaten Brau, Thomas Brau (2), and Wagner Brau; again, all of which are Munich breweries and usually marked "München" on the steins.

A few have the "1L" capacity mark on the upper front center, copying and reminding us of the real steins. Come to think about it, who would want a tiny amount of such great beer? Maybe that's why we don't see many of the 1/8 or 1/16 liter ceramic miniature brewery steins.

Another reason may be because too many drunken tourists preferred to steal the actual steins they used, instead of buying the little souvenirs we now collect and cherish.

