AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF GERMAN
EXPRESSIONS ON A STEIN

Pictured to the right is
Mettlach Number 171 - This
fine example of the stein
maker's art is the three
liter version of the
popular Wedgewood Cameo
Type of a "master stein."
The figures circling it
represent the months of the
year, as do the related
verses. The verses and their
translations by Arthur J.
Maethner appear below.

Januar - Eismond - Hartung
Jaenner (Jenner)
Unser jenner ist kalt
Hat sonnenschein -
Drum fuellen wir
Faesser und schlaeuche mit wein.

January - Month of Ice and Hardship
The weather’s cold -
Though sun may shine -
So we fill kegs and jugs with wine.
And tarry long o'er grape and berry.
One must be wary in January!

Februar - Hornung - Feber - Sporkel
Hornung ist fasznachtzeit,
Der den Narren macht ist gescheut.
February - Month of the Horn
   The shrovetide farce in February
   Is not a season to be wary.
   Join the fun and play the fool.
   Now is the time to loose your cool.

Maerz - Lenzing - Lenzmond
   Er ist nicht zu trocken -
   Nicht zu nasz -
   Er fuellt uns leuten
   Kist und fass.

March - Month of Spring and Rejuvenation
   March makes our labors pleasant tasks
   And fills our chests, as well as casks.
   It's not too dry, and not too wet.
   A month we simply can't forget.

April - Ostermond
   Sind end aprill die reben noch blind,
   So freut sich der herr un's hausgesind.

April - Month of Easter
   Should April's ebb young vine slips spy
   The vintner's house will sigh, 'Oh my!'

Mai - Wonnemond
   Alles liebt im mai
   Jeder, vogel leegt sein ey,
   Es ist pfingstregen,
   Darum weinseegen.

May - Month of Joy
   The month of May is a month of love.
   Hawks lay their eggs, as does the dove
   And the gentle rains at Whitsuntide
   Bless sparkling wines on every side.

Juni - Brachmond
   Juni bringt keinen frost mehr
   Der dem wein gefaehrlich waer.

June - Month of Fallow Land
   Though frost may touch the vines of June,
   Its harm is slight - a blessed boon.
Juli - Heumond
Jetzt geht mit dem rechen
Wenn flieg enn bremsen stechen
Am abend magst zechen,
Dich ruhig schlafen legen.

July - Month of Hay
March to the fields and rake that hay
Flies may "bug" you all the day,
Yet think of all the joys ahead,
A "stein" or two, and then to bed!

August - Erntemond
Im heuen recht gegabelt,
In der erndt recht gezabelt,
Beim essen und trinken recht geschnabelt.

August - Month of the Harvest
After one has pitched the hay,
And laid the harvest well away,
The time arrives to drink and play.

September - Herbstmond
Maria Geburt
gingen die Studenten und
Schwalben furt.

September - Month of Autumn
In this birth month of our blessed Mary,
Students and swallows do not tarry.

Oktober - Weinmond - Gilbhart
Wein und obst -
Was gott beschert
Ist nutzbringend und dankeswerth.

October - Month of Wine and Changing Color
God bestowed -
To ease our load -
Fruit and wine -
A gift divine.

November - Windmond - Nebelung
Viel hasen - viel spring -
Viel jage - viel sing.
November - Month of Wind and Fog
The rabbits root, before they spring.
The hunters shoot, before they sing.

Dezember - Christmond - Heilmond - Julmond
Schwein schlachten, wein trinken,
Haering essen, wachtel fangen
Kraut schneiden -
Sind des monats freuden.

December - Month of Christ - The Savior - Yule
Slay the swine, sip the wine,
Dine on herring in the brine.
Quail and herbs are also fine,
Broiled on embers in December.