

Almost One Year Old

Membership Passes 200, Proving Need; National Meeting, Europe Tour Planned

Stein
Collectors
International

By TOM MCCLELLAND

If success can be defined as setting out to do what one plans to do, Stein Collectors International is experiencing better than mild success.

My original goal last September was to communicate with collectors of steins to discover a few facts about the drinking vessels of this world. Facts have turned up through this venture. Better yet, friendships have been created.

Although the most recent membership jump indicated a dropoff from a continuing surge (35 new "steinsters" since March edition), the total of 215 indicates that by our first birthday we may have close to 300 enthusiasts in SCI. My original, optimistic thinking would have prayed for about half that many. Collectors are telling others; they are writing in from all over the U.S.A. And the end is not yet in sight. Other stein enthusiasts continue to find out about SCI.

Evidence of the zeal of the members is found in the letter file of this executive secretary. Some excerpts from members' letters are printed on page sixteen, the back page of this edition. The size of the group and the special interests of the group make it desirable to have an hon-

orary president for SCI (see article on page 16).

Europe for members, their families and friends will be available to SCI'ers next summer.

At the present time, I am working out details for a 21-day tour. A printed brochure will be available soon, complete with details on itinerary, price, and options to extend extra days abroad.

Facing the fact that many of the best beer steins have been removed from the Old Country by avid collectors, the trip will not be billed as a buyer's paradise. An article in next September's *Gemütlichkeit* will review the market for steins in Europe. A special effort will be made, however, to get the collectors to some good spots for purchase.

It is hoped that the tour will be as unusual as SCI itself. Camaraderie in travel experiences is more than a battle for one stein in some Bavarian shop of antiquity. The one-month trip will feature entertainment, culture, epicurean delights of each country, visits off the beaten paths. The pace will not be so torrid that the traveler will wonder where he or she has been when it's all over.

Using experience gained from leading two student tours (60 days each) in Europe, I will take pride in every detail of this trip. And I welcome suggestions from members.

There'll be more in the next bulletin. Obviously most of our members will not take the trip, but the experiences will be shared with a special supplement to *der Gemütlichkeit* following the trip.

I hinted once at a national convention of SCI. That hint is back again. As a send-off for the European jaunt, I am proposing a two-day gathering in New York City.

It would be impossible to predict what the detailed plans for our first such meeting would include, but I would think it should be primarily social.

Perhaps some dealers could set up a special antique show in our hotel—emphasizing steins of course. Any ideas? We might even have a few steins up for bidding in our own private auction.

Dates for the convention will be available soon.

Meanwhile, Stein Collectors International continues to GROW and SUCCEED.

der Gemütlichkeit

No. 4, June 1966

A Quarterly Bulletin for Collectors of Steins

Page 13

The Market for Steins

First in Series

Demand Up and Supply Down— So Prices Rise

EDITOR'S NOTE: Worthwhile antiques are seldom plentiful and steins are no exception. It's an unusual market. This three-part series on the stein market will cover: (1) the market generally, (2) the market in Europe, and (3) the appearance of imitations.

Since steins have never been a utilitarian part of American life, the appearance of steins in the United States has always been somewhat of an uncommon sight. Steins, plain or fancy, are ornamental in the decorative scheme of things. Placed on a nicknack shelf or on a mantle,

steins are conversation pieces or simply attractive additions to a room's decor.

Avid stein collecting by individuals is not a new hobby; however, there has been a boom in collecting in recent years.

Many long-time collectors will attest to the fact that they find few bargains in the stein market nowadays. It is indeed difficult to even find steins—bargain or bust!

Discussing prices of steins is more difficult than talking about loss leaders in the super market. Soap is soap. Coffee is coffee. Yes, even beer is beer. Al-

though there are some appreciable differences in products, the differences are not as great as the advertisers would have us believe. Steins, though, are closer to works of art than they are to daily commodities.

The best old steins are scarce. Time alone has taken its toll. Collectors have shelved some of the best. Finding a good stein is almost like finding the proverbial needle in the haystack.

And what happens to any item that becomes hard to obtain? Prices soar.

Continued on next page



The Market for Steins

Continued from preceding page

Prices of steins have increased so sharply recently that veteran collectors can hardly believe it; non-collectors refuse to believe stein prices.

One California collector recently bought ten Mettlachs for \$700. That was an average of \$70. None of the steins was larger than ½ liter in size.

A Florida dealer came across a collection of 16 Mettlachs and made them available as a group to one buyer for \$1750. The average cost in this situation is just under \$110 per stein. Even though there were a few three- and five-liter steins in the collection, the asking price indicates that prices are up.

Mettlachs, the best catalogued and generally most popular steins, are not the only pieces that are up. In any case a quality stein from a line that has become scarce through the years is gaining in value while it rests on display.

Though increased prices may alarm some collectors, it should also be noted that collections are gaining in value—and that is one of the rewards of any fine collection.

Writes Russ Rudin of St. Louis, "I have seen the price of ½ liter Mettlach go from \$5 in 1940 to the present high of \$75 to \$125. I just wonder when the top will be reached."

Hunting for steins may be less rewarding than in the past. If the prices don't frighten the collector, then the selection might. Most shops have no steins available. Some have a few. Few have many. Steins may someday become practically extinct in our shops of antiquity.

Some dealers have shunned dealing in steins because they have to tie up too much money in stocking them. "I wouldn't touch them," said one dealer.

The hunt for steins is carried on in many ways. Some collectors have contacts with stein specialists. Auctions, though time-consuming and not always rewarding, are attended by some collectors.

Private advertising, usually in a periodical such as *Antique Trader*, gets good results for some collectors. Buying through the mail has become popular with some collectors.

The market for antique steins is carried on in many unusual manners, in many forms of offer and acceptance.

Recent travelers through Europe indicate that there is no Utopia for stein buyers in the Old Country.

The insufficient supply and the great demand have made stein collecting a more difficult task, but certainly challenging.

For a man who teaches journalism and preaches deadlines, the editor of *der Gemütlichkeit* is no living example of punctuality. This is your June edition, belatedly presented with Hitchcock-type suspense in August.

I can think of no excuse for the tardiness. UNLESS: New job at Hancock College (the junior college in Santa Maria), required a physical movement of files, etc. I attended summer school workshop at Sacramento State. I painted in the house this summer. Pregnant wife and "terrible two" son demanded some of the old boy's time. So SCI suffered.

That SCI has become time consuming is an understatement. I've spent much time recently streamlining the mailing, organizing the files, and catching up with correspondence. It may be a never-ending battle but I'm promising a September edition in September.

SCI'S growth has been **asteinomical**. . . but not even ½-liter what it should be.

Blossoming from two interested collectors in Santa Maria to its present 200 plus, SCI's membership increased 296 per cent between the time of the September publication and the December edition. Growth from December to March was exactly 100 per cent. Since the March number, growth has shown only a 20 percent rise. It's tapering off.

No set goal for SCI membership has been set. We simply want as many stein collectors as we can get together.

Among the newest members:

Rudolph Schaefer, of the F & M Schaefer Brewing Co., Brooklyn, New York. His company's executive offices house the rare collection of steins and tankards known as the R. J. Schaefer Stein Collection.

Thomas Whitton of New York City. Tom, an earnest student of steins, believes that SCI members should work together to duplicate the Mettlach 1899 Catalogue with up-to-date color photos.

Mrs. G. O. Thompson of Alliance, Ohio—our 200th member.

Erich Kempa, a U.S. Army interpreter, who has offered to help with any questions on "Bier Steins." He is now serving in Frankfurt, Germany.

Joe Durban, a ten-year collector with some 75 steins (29 Mettlachs, 11 regimentals). Mr. and Mrs. Durban just happen to live on the same street as my mother in Monterey Park, Calif.

It was originally stated that SCI would be a non-profit organization. Such an organization is too costly in too many ways.

Therefore, SCI is herewith operating in the spirit of an old American tradition—with a profit motive. It is doubtful that a profit will be made. However, if the income ever catches up with the expenditures, the organizer feels he will have earned the slight profit. To date, the organization is more than a hundred bucks in the red. And the always-patient Santa Maria Printers are sweating with me.

Meanwhile, it is less expensive to operate as a single proprietorship than as a private, non-profit corporation. Now, let's see. . . how can I make a couple of bucks out of this thing?

As our group's first year comes to completion, dues are now due for a few. At the voluntary request of several members, dues for renewals will be increased.

To avoid excessive red tape, announcement of dues will be made only once to each member—an announcement stapled within the pages of *der Gem*.

Renewals will be \$3 for one year or \$5 for two. No lifetime memberships, please. That's too much obligation for right now.

It sounds like my stein is empty again. So bottoms up!

Second Lady Buys a Stein

By Dick Hankenson

I have a stein in my collection that, while it is not a Mettlach, means more to me than one of them.

My German-made stein with pewter cover has a scene of the "new" courthouse of Minneapolis. The construction of the building was started in 1898. It's still in use as the Hennepin County court House and Minneapolis City Hall.

One reason the stein means so much to me is that my late father designed all of the structural steel work in the roof of that building. He was an engineer and his plan was accepted for the roof. Many times, years ago, I saw the original plans with my father's name on them.

About thirteen years ago I sold the first of these steins that I ever had to Mrs. Hubert Humphrey, wife of our Vice-President.

Mrs. Humphrey stopped in my Olde Street Lamp Shop (Maple Plain Minn.) one night and bought the stein for her husband because he had been mayor of Minneapolis. The stein was a souvenir of Mr. Humphrey's days as mayor in the "new" courthouse.



STEIN BUYER was Mrs. Hubert Humphrey. The stein was souvenir of Minneapolis' "new" courthouse, started in 1898, finished in 1904.

Membership Certificates Available

Certificates of membership in SCI are now available.

The colorful, handsome certificates are 8 x 10 inches in size. A listing of charter members is printed on the certificate, similar to the listing of soldiers on a regimental stein.

Certificates can be ordered by sending \$2.50 in check or money order to Stein Collectors International, 815 South McClelland, Santa Maria, Calif. 93454. Be sure to indicate how you want your name printed or if you would like it blank so you can have it hand-lettered.

If you're vain enough to want two, send just \$3.50 for the pair.

A miniature (1/4" tall) plastic stein, courtesy of Lowenbrau Brewery, will be included with each order—while they last! They're very modern—topless and cute.

DOUGLAS A. MUSSELL
is a member of

Stein Collectors International

A Correspondence Organization for Collectors of Steins
Founded September 1, 1965 in Santa Maria, California
Executive Secretary and Founder: Tom McClelland
Headquarters: 815 South McClelland, Santa Maria, Calif. 93454
Publishers of a Quarterly Bulletin About Steins

CHARTER MEMBERS

Jim Ackerman—Calif. Dr. Willis F. Ader—Calif. Leonard Albert—Calif. J. R. Anderson—Iowa Barbara Baker—Maine Dr. Arthur E. Beistle—Ind. George Bennett—Tenn. M. L. Bennett—Tenn. Clarence Berg—Calif. Clete Berner—Pa. Mrs. Augusta Blomquist—Calif. Barton C. Bolton—Calif. Warren Bongard—Calif. Richard E. Bosquet—Mich. Marguerite Bots—Calif. Dr. James A. Bralley—Ill. Bob Bristow—Calif. D. M. Brown—Va. Heleen E. Brown—Ohio E. A. Burns—Ill. Frank Busalacki—Calif. L. K. Butterfield—Mich. Emmett G. Byrd—Mo. Mrs. Ivan L. Coe—Calif. A. B. Christoffersen—Wash. Gerald Cias—Calif. Robert Coombs—Mich. Noble C. Cox—Ind. Tom D. Crocker—Minn. Kay Csurgay—Florida Mrs. John Derthick—Mich. Charles Diederich—Ohio	June Dimsdle—Texas Richard Eades—Texas Polly Fabel—N.Y. Harry L. Faulkner—Florida Bud Ferguson—Calif. John Ferguson—Calif. Ed Firbank—Calif. R. P. Fletcher—Pa. Ron Frudder—Calif. S. G. Gambone—Mass. Leonard Gazin—Calif. John Gerstner—Ohio D. C. Gillis—Texas Emil Gislason—Wash. William B. Glass—Texas Rev. Leo J. Goudreau—Maine Paul Goyette—Calif. George V. Haderslev—Calif. Dr. Roger Hambly—Calif. Dick Hankenson—Minn. Capt. Raymond F. Hanson—Ariz. Mrs. Lore Harris—Calif. James Hartley—Calif. Vena C. Hay—Ill. Norman Hays—Calif. Jack Heiman—Minn. John B. Hickman—Va. Kermit W. Hodgins—Wash. Jennie Hollowell—Mont. Donald C. Hughes—Ohio Mrs. Ben Hutchinson—Texas	A. N. Johnson—Calif. Robert Johnson—Calif. Genevieve Jokerst—Mo. Beatrice L. Kern—Calif. Roy E. Klauke—Calif. Herbert Knaebel—Calif. C. L. Kotarski—Calif. Mim Kotarski—Calif. Richard E. Kropp—Texas Norman Krudop—Ind. Martha E. Laestar—Ohio Frank Lambertus—Ind. E. F. Langham—Texas Otto J. Langhammer—Conn. Thomas R. Leibrock—Pa. Joan C. Levine—N.Y. Milton B. Lieblich—Ohio Jack G. Lowenstein—N.J. Kenneth M. Lowthian—Wash. Dr. D. C. MacKenzie—Mich. A. W. Maguski—Mass. Maltby—Florida Wayne C. Mann—Calif. Joseph M. Mazza—N.Y. Cora McCracken—Ohio Mandy Meares—Kans. Julia Meeker—Kans. Warner T. Meis—N.Y. Robert H. Mohr—Ill. Emily Moody—Florida William H. Moore—Ill.	Don Morrison—Calif. John Murry—Ill. Douglas A. Mussell—Calif. Wilbur J. Mussell—Calif. Ronald Neidermayer—Calif. Homer Noblitt—Ind. L. J. Norris—Ark. John O'Connor—Mass. Fal Oliver—Calif. J. J. O'Neill—Pa. Mrs. Merje Olmsted—Ill. Stanley R. Pappas—Wisc. Charles Parkins—Mo. L. P. Paulson—Wisc. Arnold Penrose—Ind. Roger Poe—Calif. Mrs. Charles Powell—Calif. Harvey Rates—Wisc. Mrs. A. M. Reinstedt—Calif. Randy Reinstedt—Calif. James Rhinehart—Iowa Walt Richards—Conn. Maury Riganto—Va. Perry L. Righter—Mo. Dan S. Rogers—Calif. Russell E. Rudin—Mo. James Rutlander—Mo. Syd Sarisohn—N.Y. Leonard H. Schenk—Mo. Rupprecht Scherff—Mass.	E. H. Schoutth—N.Y. F. C. Schultz—Ohio William C. Schwartz—Pa. Mrs. Walter Scott—Calif. Howard Seavey—Wash. Harold C. Seiderer—N.Y. Ben E. Sherman—Calif. Roy Show—Calif. Smoky Silva—Calif. Keith J. Smith—Tenn. Radford W. Smith—Florida Jean S. Spencer—Calif. Jean Sornborger—Mo. Alfred Stark—Wisc. Renee Steinbach—Calif. R. R. Stett—N.C. James N. Stines—Calif. Walter L. Torte, Jr.—Texas D. Kingsley Traylor—Va. Mrs. A. J. Verborg—Calif. Jack Viets—Calif. Robert Walker—Pa. Robert D. Walker—Mich. Tom Whitton—N.Y. Robert G. Wiley—Calif. Ray E. Wilkerson—Calif. David L. Willis—Calif. Roland E. Willis—Calif. J. E. Wunnenberg—Va. L. Vernon York— F. D. Younk—Mo.
--	---	---	--	---

CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP names the member and the charter members. Black ink on a blue and gold background make a colorful announcement of a collector's membership in SCI. Suitable for framing, the 8 x 10 inch certificate goes for \$2.50, all proceeds helping to bail out SCI's hungry secretary. Order now.

der Gemütlichkeit

A bulletin for collectors of antique, or just old beer steins, published quarterly (March, June, September, December) throughout the year. One year's membership is three dollars; two years is five dollars. Back copies: \$1 per year for an extra copy per edition (to members only). Published by Tom McClelland, 815 South McClelland, Santa Maria, California 93454.

Honorary President Will Be Elected

SCI should have a president, it has been suggested.

Nominations, by mail, are now open. If you know of a gung-ho stein collector worthy of the honor, write a few words about him in your nomination letter to the exec. sec.

A screening committee of Santa Barbara County members will limit the nominations, if necessary. Names and thumbnail sketches of nominees will be listed in next *der Gem*.

Voting, by mail, will give us our first honorary president. The title can be little more than honorary, but it should be quite an honor.

Future Editions Will Cover? ? ?

Der Gemütlichkeit will go into detail in the future on whatever SCI members desire.

Featured in near future editions will be Royal Vienna, ivory and salt glaze steins.

It is hoped the editions will be heavy with photographs.

Stein Exchange

Listings in the Stein Exchange will be free to members. Standing ads or strictly commercial ads will be billed at \$1.50 a column inch with a minimum charge of \$1 per ad. It is hoped this column will be primarily an exchange of information and discoveries pertaining to drinking vessels.

JUST NOW I have a character stein in the form of a clown with initials M & W impressed on the bottom. The initials are in script within a circle. Under the M & W, still within the circle, is Gr. Can anyone tell me what the M & W stand for and where, when, etc.? Larry Butterfield, 605 W. Midland, Bay City, Michigan 48706.

WHAT MANUFACTURER used the mark of a stein in a triangle? There is no name on the stein. Marguerite C. Wilson, P. O. Box 4164, Auburn Heights, Mich. 48057.

WE CAME ACROSS Mettlach tumblers, water glass size with painting on them. Approximately, what are these worth today? Otto L. Berndt, 1532 Lodi Avenue, San Mateo, Calif. 94401.

HELP! I would like to know if there are any books, pamphlets, or literature that I might buy, beg, steal, or even borrow so that I might read and learn more about steins. Do you have the names of authors who might have written books on steins? Wally Schardin, 3012 Fillmore St. N. E., Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55418.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: See first edition of *der Gem*, for Mettlach books and catalogues available. In fact, it is the very absence of information that brought about Stein Collectors International.)

HIGHEST CASH PRICES paid for Mettlach, Royal Vienna and Meissen steins or plaques. Sell your collection or duplicates to the largest dealer in old beer steins on the West Coast. OLD WORLD IMPORTS, INC., 8232 W. 3rd Street, Los Angeles, Calif. 90048.

PEWTER STEIN, type that never had a cover, for sale. Approximately 5 inches high with engraving:

Sunset Hill
1897

Won By
Cleveland Hardon

It has a glass bottom. (Incidentally, Cleveland Hardon was a distant relative of President Grover Cleveland.) Unusual shape. \$14 Barbara Baker, 2 Hammond Road, Falmouth Foreside, Maine.

NICE OLD STEIN, 1895 date inscribed on fancy pewter hinged top. Colorful pottery with a fancy medallion on front. Has music box in base that plays "Do Ye Ken, John Peale" when lifted. It's old and original. \$72.50 plus postage. Gilbert Simmons, 533 N. Weiler St., Ottumwa, Ia. 52501.

Unusual Character

Reader-Members Praise 'der Gem'

Following are excerpts of letters sent to *der Gemütlichkeit!*

After quick perusal of your previous copies, it looks like a splendid start—and certainly the collecting of steins is worthy of some noble organization.

Harold W. Long, M.D.
Columbus, Ohio

Issue No. 3 is great! I don't know how you do it on anything but a tremendous budget.

Walter D. Felzke
Attorney at Law
Tulsa, Oklahoma

(The budget stinks. Credit is good but overextended.)

I hope you are able to stir up enough interest to organize the European trip. We certainly want to be included and can arrange our time whenever the dates are decided.

E. C. Gislason
Seattle, Washington

I would pay higher dues if you need it; hope to see you come out with a monthly publication in the future.

Perry L. Righter
Mexico, Missouri

(We need it. You are more likely to see extra pages than you are to find a monthly publication.)



MUNICH MONK is interpreted still another way in this character, owned by Emmett G. Byrd of Kansas City. It's marked "Martin Pauson, München," stands 8½ inches high, has hinged pewter top. Mr. Byrd, collector for 30 years, would like comments on this stein. Address: 331 No. Hardesty, Kansas City, Missouri 64123