

Der Gemütlichkeit

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A Quarterly Bulletin for Collectors of Steins

Page 17

Carved Ivory Tells Its Own Story of Quality

CARVED IVORY steins are prize collectors' items. Carved from elephant tusks in most cases, a majority of the fancier pieces were carved in Germany, some in the late 1600's but most in the late 1700's and early 1800's.

GREAT DETAIL in the carved ivory is usually set off with silver metal parts (base, bands, lid hinges, etc.). Scenes are more likely to be cherubs than bawdy drinking scenes.

IVORY STEINS speak for themselves in quality. They have always been most valuable. Today they are exceptionally precious because of their age, their beauty, the value of their ivory and silver, and their rareness.

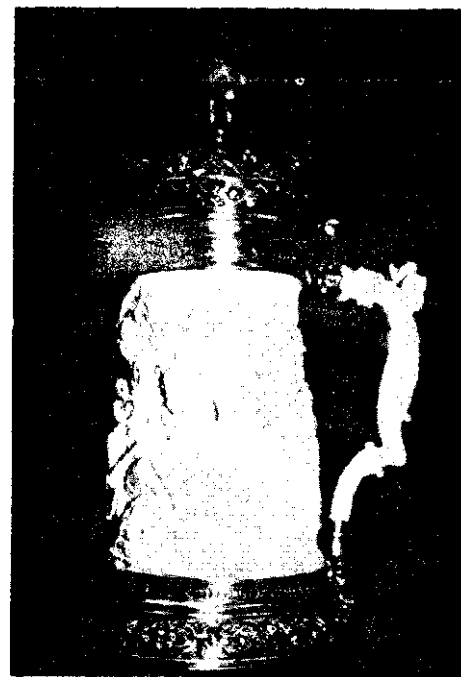
VERY FEW IVORIES are signed though often the silver trim is hallmarked.

Ewer at right is 23" tall. It's one from Russ Rudin's collection of seven rare carved ivories. The silver trim is hallmarked Augsburg, dated 1680.



Chubby cherubs are displayed on this ivory piece owned by R. R. Stockburger. It is 11¾" to top of figure on lid. Mr. Stockburger would like comments. 1004 E. Las Olas Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Ivory and silver blend together in this work of art. From the Rudin Collection.



Russ Rudin's Favorites Are Ivory Beauties

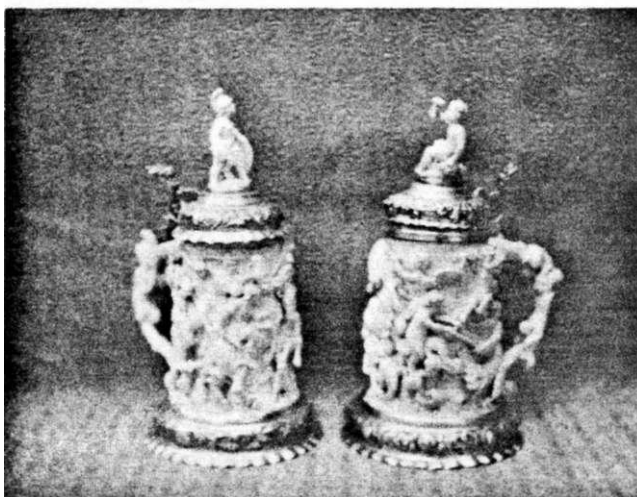


Russ Rudin collects all kinds of drinking vessels. Ivories are his favorites.

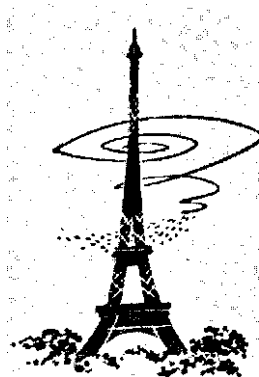
The St. Louis collector has "over 300 Mettlachs and quite a few ivories." He displays his collection in a special room, complete with bar and cabinets. Mr. Rudin is shown with part of his collection.

At left is another of Russ Rudin's fancy carved ivory pieces.

Here are two more from the Rudin collection.



FROM PARIS TO LONDON Steinland Tour Follows National



Starting in gay Paris on July 19 and ending 21 days later in jolly London, the Steinland tour will become a reality for many SCI members and friends.

Response to the announcement of a tour has been extraordinary—so much that we rest assured that the trip has definitely materialized, even before we print a promotional brochure.

The day-by-day itinerary is complete. Eight countries are included: France, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Belgium, Holland, Denmark and England.

First class hotels with bath are reserved for all stops. Location and service have been considered. One hotel is a castle—modernized and comfortable.

Travel agent Pete Lilla, a member of SCI, has been alert to the interests of the group. He included a nostalgic side-trip to Mettlach where a Villeroy and Boch Museum is located.

Mr. Lilla opens the three week tour with a cruising dinner on the Seine River in Paris and ends the sojourn with a pub crawl and farewell dinner in London.

Stopover cities will be Paris, Lucerne, Innsbruck,

Salzberg, Munich, Heidelberg, Cologne, Brussels, Amsterdam, Copenhagen and London.

Transportation will include plane, train (first class from Paris to Switzerland), bus (chartered coach with German driver from Lucerne to Amsterdam), and Rhine steamer.

The price has been set at \$975 from New York City. A deposit of \$200 per person is required to reserve a place. Deposits may be forwarded to Stein Collectors International.

Plans for the New York convention are not as formalized but, again, interest is high. To coincide with the Europe trip, the national will be on July 16-18. Although the 16th, a Sunday, is the only weekend day of the convention, it seems imperative that the meeting be held previous to the send-off for Europe.

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. Extra copies: \$1 per year for an extra copy per edition (to members only). Back copies: 50 cents each. Published by Tom McClelland, 815 South McClelland, Santa Maria, California 93454.

Members are encouraged to participate by sharing information and glossy black and white photographs of their collections.

Advertising will be billed at \$1.50 per column inch. A minimum of \$1 will be charged for all advertising.



One of newest members in SCI family is Steven Elliott McClelland. Our youngest addition inherited a one-liter, two handled pewter tankard on his arrival last August 30. (Copies of Steve's announcement are being mailed to members as long as they last.)

The Dallas Morning News carried a lengthy feature on member Edwin Langham recently. Written by Kent Biffle, the article appeared on August 14 on page 29A. I wrote to *The News* to see about getting copies. Langham's story is headlined:

All Empty

Joy Comes from 166 Beer Steins

An illustration of Mr. Langham and his Villeroy & Boch Mettlachs ran with the story. Some of the commentary:

"Langham is no drunkard. He's more of a tankard. He's hooked on beer steins.

"His 166 prized steins are housed in a special room that was added to his Oak Cliff home at 1607 Nob Hill Road when the place became overcrowded . . .

"If pressed, he'll admit that he does drink a little beer now and then. 'But when I do, I drink out of the can like anybody else.'"

Spinning Wheel, a national mag about antiques, carried a cover story on Mettlachs in its recent September issue. It was written by George M. Bleekman, a professor in the department of biology at the University of Oregon (in Eugene). Mr. Bleekman's article is three pages of story and 13 photos.

Single copies of the magazine can be purchased at 45 cents each. Write SPINNING WHEEL, Hanover, Penna. 17331.

Jack Heimann writes again. He mentioned another newspaper article, this one in *The San Antonio Express* (Texas again, of course).

Mr. Heimann writes, "It's a nice article on Mr. and Mrs. Donelson Gillis. A good article, it even talks of Tom McClelland and his *der Gem*. Only error is he moved you from Santa Maria to Santa Monica in the article."

Alice Bonnett, society editor, wrote the article. I'll try to get the date of the edition.

It's good to see stein information getting into print all over the nation. We shall try to share the articles. If I can get a collection of them, I could reproduce them on 8-1/2 x 11 pages or as one page of *der Gem*. Keep me posted, gang.

KAMMERER'S KORNER

By George E. Kammerer



Robert L. Ripley, the famous "Believe It or Not" man, gathered together a stein collection which he insured for \$100,000. The Blatz Brewing Company of Milwaukee purchased the collection from his estate.

The collection included a large stein which can hold eight gallons of liquid and is fifty inches tall.

Ripley's 99 pieces are representative of drinking vessels from a number of countries. He even had Norwegian wooden tankards, Chinese porcelain wine pots, and Italian drinking urns.

The most valuable of his collection was a jungle stein, carved from elephant tusks with relief scenes of fighting lions. The cover, base and handle are silver. The cover has a full figure of a charging elephant. The stein cost \$7,500 over twelve years ago. It's one of the most valuable steins in the world. The last time, some years ago, that I went to the brewery to view the collection, I was told it was in packing cases in the basement. I have heard since that it is still there.



A rare military stein is the Mettlach regimental (pictured). I have seen only about a half dozen. Each featured a different Imperial German army unit. The mounted cavalry units were especially impressive.

This military engineer's stein shows an officer and two enlisted men dressed in representative uniforms of the unit. The background has soldiers working on the construction of a railroad bridge. The cover indicates that this unit, the Eisenbahn Regiment No. 3, was part of the famed Prussian Garde du Corps. The stein has a spread eagle thumbrest. High relief sunburst with medallion of a Prussian eagle and an open work motto "Suum Cuique" are on the cover.

Unlike her sister regimentals, this military stein doesn't carry personal information such as individual names and dates.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Kammerer's Korner will appear regularly in der Gem. George might appreciate comment and short items sent to 1861 Nicolet Dr., Green Bay, Wis.

The Market for Steins

Second in Series

'There's Not a Mettlach in Mettlach'

EDITOR'S NOTE: This second in the series of the stein market deals with the stein market in Europe. The final article in the December edition will cover the emergence of fakes, duplicates, phonies or imitations.

"There is not a piece of Mettlach for sale in Mettlach." That's what Edwin Langham, SCI member of Dallas, writes. Langham visited Mettlach last year. His statement about the availability of steins in the most renowned stein capital of the

world, is typical of the lament of stein hunters everywhere in Europe: Where are the steins?

Collectors have been scavenging Europe—and especially Germany—for years. Most of the choice steinery is gone.

One German dealer in steins and Bavarian china wrote that quality steins were "getting harder to find." Though the dealer indicated that prices had gone up in Germany, there are still savings by buying abroad, especially *if* the steins can

be found. On an average, steins are probably 30-40 per cent less in Germany—at the retail level. The savings in some cases may be even greater.

There is still the challenge of finding a rare piece in some unknown shop on an out-of-the-way cobblestoned street. Bartering for price is not unheard of. And an offer to pay less for a quantity purchase of more than one stein is acceptable—that is, if accepted by the dealer.

Two Vie for Presidency

Two Midwesterners have been nominated to become the first honorary president of Stein Collectors International. Jack K. Heimann of St. Paul, Minnesota, and Kurt J. Sommerich of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, are the two nominees. Both are private collectors, enthusiastic charter members of SCI, and worthy of the consideration of members throughout the land.

One will obviously win. And it appears that the second national convention for SCI could well be in the Midwest—where brew is brew and the new stein president resides.

Mr. Jack Heimann Mr. Kurt Sommerich

Nominated by Tom Crocker
(Minneapolis, Minn.)

Jack K. Hermann of St. Paul has all the necessary qualifications in my book. He has been a very successful businessman. He sold out his own business but is now involved indirectly in some others to "keep busy."

He is very likeable and eager to tell others what he knows if his advice is sought. I personally learned more about steins in one evening when he and his wife were over, than from all other sources combined.

Unselfish with his time, Mr. Heimann writes to many dealers and collectors around the country. He has a choice collection of Mettlachs.

Jack travels quite a lot. He has the time and resources to do such. He knows, by letter and phone if not in person, many stein collectors around the country.

Jack Heimann and his wife are a great pair.

Nominated by Bella H. Selan
(Milwaukee, Wis.)

I submit the name of Mr. Kurt J. Sommerich of Milwaukee for honorary president of SCI.

I have known Mr. Sommerich for more than thirty years and can assure members that he is a gentleman who enjoys the finest reputation for personal integrity and honesty. He is a dedicated and devoted private collector of steins and has in his possession a very valuable collection of Mettlach products.

Mr. Sommerich would be a hardworking president, sparing no effort to increase membership in Wisconsin and bordering states. He is a collector who accumulates fine steins for the pure joy of it.

He is a native of Germany—born in Nuremberg, a beer city. He is able to translate the texts on steins and has done so as a favor to many collectors. He is a competent translator who gets occasional practice on his job when he has to deal in the courts of Milwaukee.

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.

Please send comments first to SCI headquarters so that we can share the information with all members.

Answers to Previous Exchange

Pg. 16 in No. 4—To L. Butterfield.

Name of the pottery is Merkelbach & Wick, Grenzhausen (Rhineland). Since 1873—(present?). Answered by Kurt Sommerich.

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.

WE WILL BUY unusual steins in perfect condition—one or a collection. Edward Firbank, 13861 Harbor Blvd., Garden Grove, Calif.

WANTED TO BUY: Mettlach, Royal Vienna, other fine steins. One or a collection. Describe and price. Macfabel's, 374 Riverdale Ave., Yonkers, N.Y. 10705.

STEINS WANTED! I am in the market for Mettlachs and regimentals whenever reasonably priced. My collection is very small so any attractive and undamaged examples of the above or equal quality steins will be of interest. Norman E. Sherman, 4295 Marina Drive, Santa Barbara, Calif. 93105.

METTLACH STEINS and PLACQUES wanted! Also looking for Meissen, Royal Vienna, and character steins in perfect condition. Send price for prompt reply. Richards, 46 Fitch Ave., New London, Conn.

ORIGINAL WM. K. VANDERBILT Victorian dining room, 6' mirrored hand-carved mahogany sideboard and 6 matching chairs. Museum pieces. Will trade for Mettlachs. \$1500 value. George H. Autentreich, 333 E. Main Street, Riverhead, New York 11901.

WHERE WAS A PORCELAIN stein of the devil made? It carries an impressed anchor with a B in the center of it. Marion Pechousek, 931 Main Street, Antioch, Illinois.

MANY FINE OLD steins for sale including china, glass and reserve military type. Also one Capo-de-Monti. All steins guaranteed old. June Salvatore, 605 N. Oak, Buffalo, N.Y. 14203.

I MIGHT SWAP a couple of duplicate Mettlachs for different mold numbers. Thomas E. McGrath, 18 Concord St., Westbury, N.Y. 11590.

HOW TO VOTE

Write the last name of your choice on a postal card or in a letter. Send it to SCI headquarters before December (postmarked not later than November 30). Be certain to sign your name to your ballot so that we can limit voting to members only. All members, brand new or charter old, are eligible to vote.