

Elected and Elated

FIRST STEIN CLUB PRESIDENT IS ST. PAUL'S JACK HEIMANN

Jack Heimann has been elected as Stein Collectors International's first honorary president.

Heimann, 64, and his wife Jeanne were elated when notified by phone in mid-December. Jack started collecting in 1943 and now has about 130 steins—97 of them Mettlach and the rest regimentals, character, pewter and glass.

"My dear frau Jeanne got me going down this street," said Jack, when asked how he started collecting. "She hooked me on steins with the purchase of an old and very beautiful regimental."

Mr. Heimann was born in St. Louis—"within stein-throwing distance of the Anheuser-Busch plant on the old south side."

Jack lists his three most prized steins as Black Forest Mettlachs Numbers 2038 (4-liter), 2829 (1 liter) and 2828 (1 liter). Among his favorites are four ½-liter Mettlachs with the same basic design but different scenes, all painted by the same artist (Heinrich Schlitt). The four Mettlachs are numbered 3089, 2090 and 2092.

Another group that he brags about having collected is No. 2090 in three sizes (3/10, ½ and 1 liter). He calls this second group, "a group within a group." Says Mr. Heimann, "This is highly desirable and should be a goal for the average collector."

Heimann operated a manufacturers representative sales organization in the electronic and electrical field known as the Heimann Company. The main office was in Minneapolis with branch offices in Milwaukee, Kansas City and St. Louis. He started the business in the "deep depression" of 1930 and sold the business to four employees in 1961. The business is still operating as the Heimann Company, Inc.

Since 1961 Heimann has operated as a marketing consultant to manufacturers and distributors. He is also vice-president of a new products and R&D advisory group known as Tomorrow, Inc., in St. Paul.

The new president plans to take his wife Jeanne to the national convention and on the SCI trip to Europe this summer.

The Heimanns are parents of three daughters (two married) and one son; grandparents of nine. Their youngest daughter Jennie, is a senior at the University of Minnesota and lives at home with her parents.

Jack considers his wife as the "real pro" in collecting. They enjoy going to

museums, shows, auctions, sales, and estate sales. Wife Jeanne collects oriental rugs and oriental ceramics (Japanese Satsuma plus milk glass).

President Heimann would like to see SCI subscribers use *Der Gem* as a trading post—to encourage listing of steins, plaques, and other Villeroy and Boch items, plus all types of steins which an owner is willing to trade for something else. "I'm sure others would enjoy participating," he says.

Sommerich Becomes Vice-President

Kurt Sommerich, 54, a court aide in the Probate Court of Milwaukee County for the past four years, has become SCI's first honorary vice-president. He was runner-up in the election for the presidency.

Sommerich's collection started, not with an antique, but with a new stein—a gift just seven years ago. His wife Edith, an antiquer, disliked the new appearance. "We replaced this eyesore with one Mettlach," said Kurt, "and we were hooked." The Sommerich collection includes 40 Mettlachs and about 20 other unusual steins.

Kurt's favorites are a 5-liter Mettlach (#1851) and a 3-liter Mettlach (#1734).

The Sommerichs have no children but "love our miniature silver poodle." The couple enjoys symphonic music and pictorial arts. Their hobbies are travelling, antiquing, and attending auctions.

Kurt suggests an annual roster of members listed by state headings. He also believes that provisions for formation of local chapters should be drawn. He would like to see membership be by application with a recommendation of an active member by signature.

Mr. Sommerich is hoping to attend the national meeting in New York City in July.



First honorary president of SCI is Jack K. Heimann. Middle initial stands for Koenig (anglicized to King), his mother's maiden name. A first-rate collector and a real stein enthusiast, President Heimann is now truly a king among Stein Collectors International members.

The Market for SteinsLast in Series

Old Steins Are Being Reproduced

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the last article on the stein market.

Success is often imitated. In the case of old steins becoming scarce on today's market, it was inevitable that entrepreneurs would begin to duplicate steins that had been best sellers. Most reproduced are the regimentals and characters.

The fact that steins are being made in the style of bygone days, does not necessarily mean that the antique pieces will lose their value. Rembrandt's have been copied. In fact, many famous works of art have

been duplicated. The imitations only seem to increase the value of the originals.

The duplicating becomes unscrupulous only when an attempt is made to market the new wares as antiques. *Caveat emptor* is the Latin phrase that has followed some businessmen through the ages. LET THE BUYER BEWARE. Businessmen who are interested in building a reputation for fair dealing do not believe in such a short term philosophy. Reputable dealers in steins are quick to point out flaws, chips, new lids, as well as imitations in steins that they sell.

The sad thing is that regimentals and characters are being reproduced that do have a look of quality about them. And some peddlers are misleading potential buyers.

Experienced collectors know what they are buying. Neophytes may be in trouble. Some of the new regimentals have dark pewter lids. The colors are sometimes more vivid than in authentic military steins. Usually the pictures have not been hand-painted and there is no noticeable raised paint on the stein.

Buyers should watch for bargains. Regimentals and characters for sale at approximately \$20 are usually new products. If the word *old* is omitted from an ad, it may mean that the steins are new. They weren't advertised as old, hence no fraud.

More than a few large department stores are now carrying lines of new regimentals and other highly decorative steins. For interior decorating they may be acceptable to some. For the collectors, nix.

KAMMERER'S KORNER

By George E. Kammerer



Because I was interested in gaining information concerning the star and RM mark, I contacted Reinhold Merkelbach, manufacturer of beer steins and other stone-ware, at Höhr-Grenzhausen, Germany.

Mr. Merkelbach, in turn, contacted a gentleman who has been with the factory for fifty years. The important information that came out is that the star of David and RM were used by them from 1846 until 1935. There is no record of the form numbers which sometimes appear on these steins.

The steins being produced today by Reinhold Merkelbach are sold in the United States by the Penny Company. The new steins are an attractive lot but can be distinguished from steins of old manufacture.

I once saw an attractive mounted collection of beer stein covers—the flat type with painted scenes. Here is an idea for a supplemental display.

Don't pass up badly damaged or broken steins with good covers or loose lids. Mounted side by side on a display board, this interesting art work can be salvaged to become a valuable part of a collection. The putting together of such a display is a challenge to originality and ingenuity.



When viewing this monkey character stein, the viewer often ends up with his hand over the top of his head with a quizzical look on his face. Monkey see, monkey do? No, it's just a case of wonderment. Why is this monkey holding the fish?

I've noticed in the past on other steins that included monkeys in their illustration, a fish of various size often appeared in their hands. Maybe this is symbolic. Could it be that they just like and carry fish whenever possible.

A fellow collector suggested we take a vacation and spend a week in the Munich beer halls on an empty-the-stein tour. He suggested I should pay the airfare and he would buy the beer. I felt this would be too one-sided. I would come out much to the better.

I was thinking of the first stein I collected back in college: a lithophane beauty with a presentation inscription. As often happens with students, the money runs low. It seems I needed busfare to visit a girlfriend. Results: sold stein; became engaged. Wife jokingly states she thinks if I had it to do over again, I would have kept the stein. Oh no, not me, brother.

Stein Exchange

WANT 17-INCH Mettlach etched plaques #2361, 2995 and 2196. J. J. O'Neu, 87 Industry Street, Pittsburgh, Penna. 15210.

I WANT STEINS with lids, in mint condition, free of chips, cracks, repairs or loose parts. I confine my purchases to Mettlach, character, Faience, ivory, Capo di Monte, Kreuzsen, Meissen, Royal Vienna, Mary Gregory, silver, Delft and unusual steins. I am always in the market regardless of the quantity. Ben E. Sherman, 145 Lee Street, Carnegie, Penna. 15106.

I'M INTERESTED in hearing from anyone who has old reasonably priced steins for sale. I still have no regimentals. Dick Stett, 1207 Meadowwood Drive, Kinston, N.C. 28501.

FOOLISHLY, PERHAPS, I purchased two steins minus their lids. Does anyone know where I can get pewter tops? WHERE? S. G. Gambone, 74 Russell Ave., Watertown, Mass. 02172.

IVORY STEIN pictured on the front page of September issue of *der Gemütlichkeit* is for sale. The price is \$1,500. Inquiries are invited. R. R. Stockburger, 1004 E. Las Olas Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

I HAVE AN ODD green-colored stein which is fired somewhat like a brick and is dated in the lid 1756. The mark is HW in an open-faced script with a star above and 1756 below. The mark is repeated three times, each circled. Anyone know anything? Patrick Cleland, 5543 Glencoe St., Indianapolis, Ind. 46226.

I WONDER IF Mettlach numbers could be asked for and always included when references are made in *der Gem.* I think it would help when one wishes to check a particular Krug such as the military Mettlach in Mr. Kammerer's article. It took me quite a while to find this one in Mohr's latest book. I found on pages 50 and 51 listings: 2140/753 and 756. Neither description is perfect, so the one pictured is probably one between ... or before or after. Just like the book steins, it would be interesting to find out just how many there are in this series. Al Hoch, 300 41st St., Downers Grove, Ill. 60515.



Among SCI's new members is Rene von Schleinitz of Milwaukee. He has collected Mettlachs since World War II and has some 800 steins, plaques and tobacco jars in his collection which he has given to the Milwaukee Art Center.

Upon the invitation of Villeroy & Boch, Mr. von Schleinitz visited Mettlach some years ago. The only Mettlachs he saw there were in an inn. He reports that V&B moved their entire display, for safety's sake, to Dresden during the war where all were destroyed by our bombers.

Milwaukee Sentinel Photo

FOR SALE

A collection of twenty OLD
Regimental steins

\$1,000

Other steins also available

JUNE DIMSDLE

2105 Austin Drive
Lawton, Okla. 73501

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.



Congratulations go to our first two honorary officers: President Jack Heimann (1653 Pinehurst Avenue, St. Paul 16, Minn.) and Vice-President Kurt Sommerich (6154 West Spencer Place, Milwaukee, Wisc. 53218).

I've provided their addresses so that members can communicate with them.

COMPLAINT DEPT. Ben Sherman of Pittsburgh notified me that he does not live in California as it is stated in our membership certificate. Collector Ben, an attorney in the Berger Building in Pittsburgh, was inadvertently merged in the certificate with Norman Sherman of Santa Barbara, California. But Ben is still in Pittsburgh and Norm is in California. My apologies.

I must also apologize to a gentleman whose name was completely omitted from the list of charter members: Lt. Gary Olsen of Alaska.

Free certificates were sent to all three of those members. More than fifty members have ordered the bright certificates. They are still available at \$3.50.

Along the complaint trail, only one member suggested that the increase in dues was perhaps exorbitant. Some of the original members did not, however, renew their memberships. Others joined SCI though and we still have close to 250 collectors in the ranks.

I will be sending the bulletin with first class postage from now on. It's not that I think we have a first-class publication. Some members have claimed that they did not receive certain copies. Somehow second class mailings seem to lose copies; and when folks move, *der Gem* was not forwarded.

All of you Mettlachers will have your chance to shine 'em up and show 'em in the March edition. Write a letter and send some glossy photographs (black and white please) of your favorite Mettlach pieces. Tell about your fanaticism over Mettlachs, an incurable disease. Be sure to use catalog numbers for each piece. And state size along with other commentary.

R. H. Mohr's new revised book on Mettlachs will be reviewed in the Mettlach special edition.

The local *Santa Maria Times* is giving the club a boost in January. If the article seems to be of any interest to the members, I'll buy 250.

Schaefer Brewery of Brooklyn will host SCI in its Stein Room during our national meeting. Writes R. J. Schaefer, "We would be most pleased to offer some snacks and beer during your visit."

Other plans for the national: We will be headquartered at the Roosevelt Hotel. Big banquet will be Luchow's famous German restaurant on 14th Street. A no-host cocktail party in the hotel will open the affair on July 16.

We will probably have an antique show in the hotel with a few select dealers. Steins, of course, will be emphasized.

My house will be open on Saturday evening, February 11 for all those SCI members and guests (one each, please) who would like to indulge in an old-fashioned beer burst (cocktails available on option).

Keg will be tapped at 6 p.m. Group may go out for no-host dinner about 8:30 o'clock.

Sorry the whole club won't be together for this one. I'm only expecting those in the area to show up. Please . . . RSVP. WAInut 2-1133.



Polly Fabel sent this photo of an all-porcelain Musterschutz character stein. The barmaid has a handle (doesn't show in picture).

Many Have Already Gone To Europe

Correspondence at SCI headquarters indicates that many members have already gone the route of a trip through Europe.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben E. Sherman covered five European countries during last April and May. "I bought several choice steins," wrote Mr. Sherman, "including an ivory."

Jack Lowenstein of Princeton, New Jersey returned in November from four weeks in Europe—but "with only two steins." He writes, "It sure is tough to locate old steins; they're in museums, collected by GI's or broken."

E. F. Langham of Dallas was in Mettlach last year. Radford W. Smith of St. Petersburg, Florida spent seven weeks in Germany and was also a visitor in Mettlach.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pischel are planning a 21-day tour in May. Most of their time will be spent in Germany and Austria with lots of cruising on the Rhine and Danube Rivers. Bob has promised not to buy all the steins in Europe before SCI gets there.

Now Available Is Brochure On SCI Convention, Europe

A rough plan for the first SCI national convention has been worked out. Lilla Travel, Inc. of Santa Maria is handling details for the convention as well as the group trip to Europe.

A brochure featuring both the national and the European trip is now available. Copies were sent with this edition of *der Gem*. Extras can be requested at no charge.

Membership is a must for those who wish to attend the convention. However, one membership and one registration fee of \$10 is all that is necessary to register one couple.

The national will run from July 16-19, headquartered at the Roosevelt Hotel

in New York City. Members may commute daily or stay at another hotel if they so choose.

Roosevelt management is making meeting rooms and display area available. Antique dealers who have some steins in their merchandise are welcome to request space in the show that will run concurrent with the SCI convention.

Definite plans for activities at the national will be completed at a later date. Ideas and suggestions are welcomed from members.

Some meetings will be held. The SCI may draft its own constitution, set up some regional groups, decide on procedures for future national elections, name a city for the next convention, and make geographical listing of collectors who would be interested in such a black book of stein collectors.

It is not necessary to be a member of SCI to take the trip to Europe. Friends of members are welcome to join the group for 21 days in the Old Country.

Membership Tapers Off In 2nd Year

As SCI moves into its second year, membership seems to have temporarily tapered off at about 250 members. Most first-year members did renew their membership; others still have that opportunity as their original memberships had not yet terminated.

Surprisingly, more inquiries and letters of application have been received.

It's Mettlach Time In March Edition

Mettlachs, the works of the Villeroy & Boch firm in Mettlach, Germany, will be the theme of the March edition of *der Gem*.

Undoubtedly the most popular steins collected, Mettlachs have many unique characteristics. Members are invited to send glossy black-and-white photos of their prize Mettlachs. In all instances, size of stein and Mettlach number should be indicated.

A review of a new revised edition of Mohr's *Mettlach Steins and Their Prices* will be included in the March issue.

Several members of SCI have visited the town of Mettlach. They might contribute their thoughts and reminiscences of the picturesque spot.



Here's an ivory stein that is different from most. It is 14-1/4 inches tall, weighs over 12 pounds. Signed on the bottom, it's from the Emmett Byrd collection.