

Der Gemütlichkeit

No. 8, June 1967

A Quarterly Bulletin for Collectors of Steins

Page 29

Roosevelt Hotel

New York City

July 16-19

IT'S FIRST OFFICIAL GATHERING

*It's always fair weather,
When good people get together.*

And though the weather may not be perfect in New York in July, members of Stein Collectors International are expecting a fair weather get-together for the first official meeting of the young club.

The occasion is the first national convention of SCI, a three-day tete-a-tete at New York City's Roosevelt Hotel from July 16-19.

Light on serious meetings and heavy on social activity, the first such convention has been designed to bring collectors together.

Jack Heimann, SCI president, feels that stein collectors have something in common—"a common denominator," so to speak. Jack and wife Jeanne are two of the advance registrants for the national.

National Convention Schedule

Sunday, July 16

Registration all day at Hotel Roosevelt.

No-host cocktail party at 6:30 p.m.

Monday, July 17

First official meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Transfer to Schaefer Brewery in Brooklyn at 2:30 p.m. to see R. J. Schaefer stein collection. Snacks and beer will be served.

Tuesday, July 18

Morning meeting at 9:30 a.m. Special meetings (committee or administrative) at 2:30 p.m.

Banquet at Luchow's famous German restaurant in the evening.

With the convention starting on Sunday, early arrivals in New York will be able to enjoy the theatre or a night on the town Saturday. Registration will take place in the hotel all day Sunday starting at 10 a.m. A no-host cocktail party will bring collectors together at 6:30 p.m.

Convention Favor

The official favor for the convention is a half-liter salt glaze, lidless stein expressly made for the occasion. Each stein has appropriate wording on it. These earthenware pieces are the type of steins that are in use in *gasthauses* of Germany today. Not antiques *yet*, they are utilitarian. A member who attends the next several nationals of SCI may have quite a collection in a few years.

An organizational meeting of all members and spouses will be held in the hotel on Monday morning at 9:30 o'clock.

On that afternoon conventioners will be guests at the Schaefer Brewery in Brooklyn. An inspection of the R. J. Schaefer stein collection and product sampling are on the agenda.

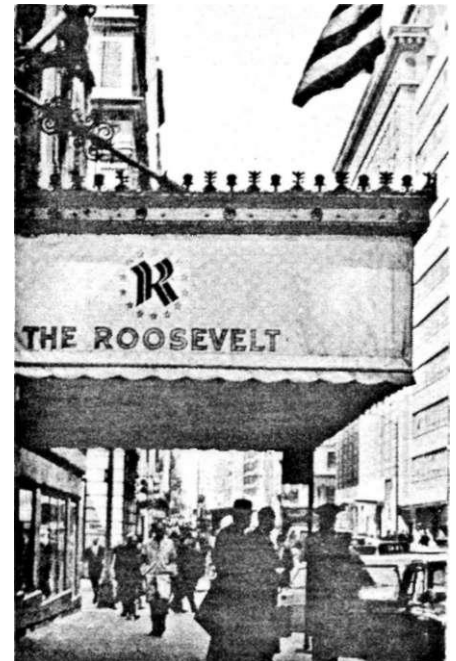
TWO STEINS TO BE GIVEN AWAY

Two old beer steins will be given away in a drawing at the national convention.

The steins were given to SCI for disposal when the man for whom they were being saved became a terminal cancer case. For each dollar donated toward the medical expenses incurred in the treatment of Bill Pfau Kelly, 44, who died recently, a name of the donor will be placed in a stein for the two drawings.

All checks for this charitable cause should be mailed to Miss A. C. Heuser, Hollywood Mayfair Apts. No. 302, 1760 No. Wilcox Ave, Hollywood, Calif. 90028.

Miss Heuser will send names of donors to New York. To participate in the stein drawings, donations should be made by July 13. Winners need not attend the convention.



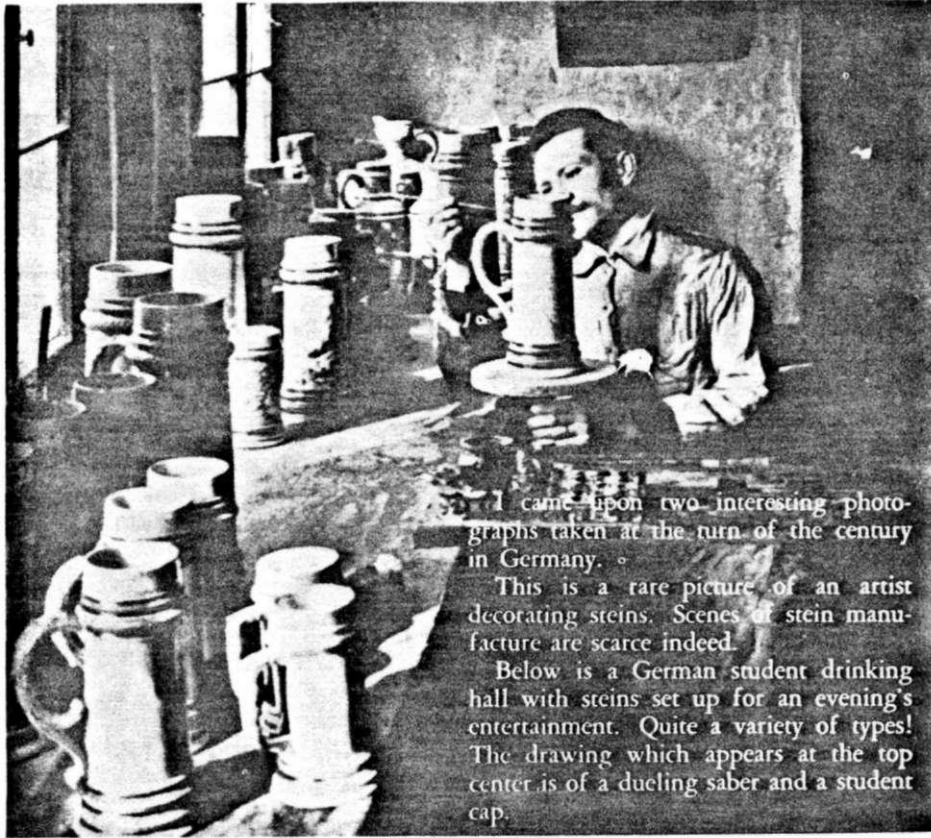
The Roosevelt at Madison Avenue and 45th Street will be scene of national convention for stein collectors. The major hotel is only minutes away from Broadway theatres, shopping, international centers of business and all the arts.



These two steins will be given away in a drawing' at the national convention.

KAMMERERS KORNER

By George E. Kammerer



I came upon two interesting photographs taken at the turn of the century in Germany.

This is a rare picture of an artist decorating steins. Scenes of stein manufacture are scarce indeed.

Below is a German student drinking hall with steins set up for an evening's entertainment. Quite a variety of types! The drawing which appears at the top center is of a dueling saber and a student cap.



Collectors Continue To Be Duped

Stein collectors continue to be duped by duplicates. The ink is barely dry on an article in December edition of *der Gemütlichkeit* pertaining to the problem of steins being reproduced when a flood of mail at SCI headquarters indicates that the new steins have caused some alarm.

Here are some of the reports:

Genevieve Jokerst of West Plains, Missouri, sent a page from *Hobbies* magazine (March 1967) with an ad marked in red pencil. One of the items marked was:

Steins. German REGIMENTAL, LITHOPHANES. Set of 6. Nude lithos. Av. 10-10-1/2" tall. Pewter tops depicting soldiers, eagle crown. 1/2-L. Dtd. 1880-86. Most colorful battle scenes. Each \$53. Collection of six for \$290.

"You know these are *not old*," writes Mrs. Jokerst. "But prices *are* for old. I'd hate to see young collectors stuck with these. I know there's not much you can do except warn and reiterate years regimentals came out."

SCI is quick to agree with Mrs. Jokerst. We are not shouting fraud at the advertiser but are asking collectors to be on the alert. We reported in these pages in December 1965 that nudes in lithophanes are "a new conception of stein art and would rarely, if ever, be an indication of an old stein—especially a regimental."

In the same article in *der Gem* we quoted a reliable source who believed that the first German regimental steins were made in 1892.

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.



The countdown is on for two of SCI's first official gatherings. Our national meeting in New York City will be underway beginning July 16. The trip abroad will follow when a small group of SCiers board a jet in New York on July 19 and head for Paris.

Advance signups do not indicate a crowd the size of a Shriners national, but there will be a sizeable number of collectors together to share stories of their hobbies and to enjoy the company of other collectors.

Surprisingly we have five West Coasters (other than your correspondent) who will be at the national. Mr. and Mrs. Emil Gislason of Seattle will make the three-day meeting on their way to Europe with the SCI tour. Dr. Roger Hambly, a San Francisco dentist, and Raymond E. Wilkerson, a San Jose State College chemistry professor, will represent the Bay area.

SCI's very first member, Bud Ferguson, has sold his liquor store business in Santa Maria. To celebrate Bud will make both the national and the tour.

Brooklyn's Tom Whitton has acted as a sort of unofficial New York host. Numerous phone calls from Tom have helped to smooth out the wrinkles in the planning. Member Whitton has been very helpful with ideas for things to do other than the official planned itinerary. Most people I've talked to want to keep the official schedule light and flexible. So be it.

M. N. Sigovich of Weston, Connecticut phoned to say he'll join us in New York City. The crowd is growing.

I still have some space for display in the hotel for dealers. Let me know pronto. No rental charge. We want to have steins for sale during registration—all day Sunday, July 16. Hotel Roosevelt has given us the space.

If it isn't too awkward, members are welcome to bring steins for sale or trade. I'll be checking in at the hotel at least two days early. 'Til then.

The next edition of *der Gem* will obviously cover the national and the tour de Europa. *Gesundheit*. Bottoms up. Here's lookin' at ya. *Skol*. 'Nuf sed.

Among the gains in membership are the following:

Milwaukee Public Library. They ordered all back copies and have them on file.

Jester Hairston, choral arranger and character actor for Hollywood movies.

Karl Ratsch's Old World Restaurant at 320 East Mason in Milwaukee.

A post card from SCier Bob Pischel traveling in Europe (from Munich, dated May 31): "Just a word to say "hello" from the beer capital of the world and to let you know we are enjoying the trip through the palaces and castles of the Old World. Bought one stein so far—in Salzburg—a hand-painted porcelain with a carved dachshund finial out of staghorn. Will write you a letter from Tulsa upon our return to comment on things which might be of good future reference."

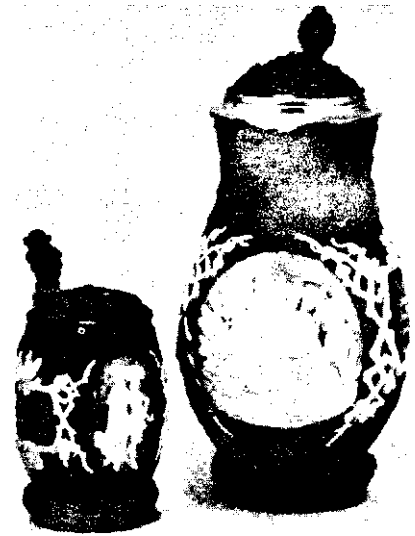
Charter member Arne B. Christofferson, 55, of Seattle died after a sudden illness.

Could it be true that collectors of some things are also collectors of other things? Yes! Many stein collectors have other collections.

Member Robert Paddi, an Air Force sergeant, has collected 400 steins, 100 shaving mugs, and 50 moustache cups. His latest fanaticism is collecting netsuke, tiny carved Japanese figures.

Dorothy Schardin, wife of member Wally, is another netsuke fan.

It seems that every new member of SCI wants all of the earlier editions of *der Gem*. We finally ran out of No. 2 but a re-run of a few hundred copies was completed recently. If I owe a copy of No. 2, let me know. We have plenty of all other editions.



Mettlach pouring pitcher No. 1028 and matching half-liter stein make a nice set. Texture is like that of a tree trunk. The dark brown pottery has cream colored relief work. From the Radford Smith collection.



Etched Mettlach No. 2231 is one half liter in size, typical of German outlook of the gemütlich side of life. Scene shows cavaliers toasting steins of foaming beer while a comrade makes music. Jester thumblift sets off a pretty scroll of hops on the inlay lid. From the Radford Smith collection.

Stein Exchange

Answers to Previous Exchange

Pg. 22, No. 4—Kammerer's Körner.

The monkey and the fish (a herring) have this meaning in Germany. The saying "Er hat einen Affen" means that he really has a load on (drunk as a lord). The monkey is the indication of being drunk. The herring is Germany's traditional hangover food—the cure. Sometimes the fish is found in the hands of a cat with a sour expression indicating the "Katzenjammer" or hangover. To have a "Kater" is to have a hangover.

Pg. 22, No. 6—To S. G. Gambone.

Many steins in Germany were, and still are, sold without lids. They never had lids on them. Some people just did not like the additional cost of a pewter lid for their beer-drinking implements. I do not consider it bad for a stein not to have a top; it is worse to add an inappropriate lid later.

These replies were from Erich Kempa of Frankfurt, Germany.

FOR SALE two steins with fine line etching in brown and green. Perfect condition. Mrs. Steve W. Grubbs, 999 No. Placentia Ave., Fullerton, Calif. 92631.

SINCE WE HAVE a dachshund in the family, I would like to acquire a stein in the shape of this breed. R. R. Stett, 1207 Meadowwood Drive, Kinston, N.C. 28501.

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, NY. 10705.



Pretty Lynnett Sechrist gives an idea of the real size of a couple of John O'Conner's 5-liter Mettlach steins.

WHERE'S THE BIGGEST?



George Autenreith's giant stein is one of the largest. He wonders just which stein is world's biggest Anyone know?

QUESTION:

WHAT, WHERE, WHICH is the largest stein in the world?

NOTE: Kammerer's Korner (September 1966) related a stein owned by the Blatz Co. being 50" tall—capacity 8 gallons. Can more information be obtained on this stein?

I have a stein, and I know of another like it, that is claimed to be the world's largest. Perhaps on the European tour some members could get more information on this one, such as the maker and especially how they were made, etc.

—George Autenreith

333 E. Main St.

Riverhead, New York 11901

DESCRIPTION OF THE STEIN:

Height: 44"

Capacity: 8-1/2 gallons

Diameter at base: 13-1/2"

Diameter at top: 7"

Inscription: "WER DIESEN HUMPEN LEEREN KANN IST FUR WAHR EIN GANZER MANN."

Mark:

John O'Conner Collects in a Hurry

John O'Conner of Springfield, Massachusetts, one of SCI's first dozen charter members, became an avid collector in a hurry.

Ten years ago he had only a few steins ("a few gifts . . . nothing fancy"). When he began waiting repeatedly for a friend at antique shops in New England, John started browsing. Steins held his attention.

He got to see the Walt Richards' collection in New London, Connecticut, and

was so impressed that he began to collect in a big way.

O'Conner now has "around 200 pieces—or a little better—steins and plaques."

O'Conner, an equipment installer with New England Telephone's central office, communicates with stein collectors all over the United States. He has as many collector friends as some folk have friends—period.

A staunch supporter of SCI, John plans to be in attendance at the club's July national meeting.



Here's some of John O'Conner's variety (left to right) a chubby Musterschutz character, Mettlach No. 2106, No. 2074, No. 1566, No. 2075, No. 2639, No. 2049, No. 1794. O'Conner has more than 200 steins and plaques.