

## That's Siegmund Klein

# WORLD'S STRONGEST STEIN COLLECTOR TO BE HONORED IN BROOKLYN

Siegmund Klein, charter member of Stein Collectors International, will be honored at a testimonial dinner in his honor on Sunday, February 18 of 1968. The World Body Building Guild is spon-

soring the formal affair in the Grand Ballroom of the Granada Hotel in Brooklyn.

For Sig Klein the plaudits are well deserved. All his life he has been a be-

liever in physical fitness and athletic culture. In fact, Sig's first stein collection consisted of steins with health motifs.

His first stein was given him in a tavern where he often had dinner. "The owner presented it to me for it had dumbbells on it," said Klein. Later he saw another stein with many dumbbells on it. He bought it. A former pupil of his father-in-law visited Sig and told him of a stein that Sig's father-in-law had given him. "He later shipped it to me," relates Klein. "Then the bug got me."

At one time Sig Klein had 200 weight-lifting and gymnastic steins. He displayed them in his New York gymnasium. Vandals had broken into the gym where the steins were displayed and had damaged many of them. Finally he decided to dispose of most of them.

The world's strongest collector today has a second collection—some fifty quality pieces that depict drinking scenes.

Klein considers himself "a collector—not an accumulator." He collects steins that appeal to him. "I also like paintings of monks in drinking scenes and glassware with drinking scenes," he says.

His dining room—what might be called "early Bavarian"—is loaded with his drinking pieces, paintings, plaques and sculpture.

Klein's favorite painting is a canvas by the famous German artist Eduard Grutzner (1846-1925). "All of my paintings are of the Munich School nineteenth century," says Klein.

Born in Thorn, West Prussia, Germany on April 10, 1902, Siegmund Klein admired strength and muscular development from early childhood. He preferred gym slippers over shoes at the age of six.

"I was first a tumbler and hand-balancer," reports Sig. At the age of sixteen he could put a 100-pound dumbbell over his head. At seventeen, he

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**LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMPION** and a real contender in stein collecting is Siegmund Klein of New York who is to be honored by World Body Building Guild in Brooklyn on February 18.



COVER STORY featured Siegmund Klein stein collection in Hobbies magazine (August of 1948).

## WORLD'S STRONGEST STEIN COLLECTOR

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started systematic weight lifting and body building.

Klein was a professional weight lifting champion of the United States for several years in the lightweight class. Now 65 years old, Klein still holds his weight at 148 pounds. He is 5'5" tall.

Siegmund Klein's whole life has been centered around fitness. His father-in-law was Professor Louis Attila, one of the world's great weight trainers. Born in Baden, Germany in 1844, Attila trained some of the strongest and best built

men in the world during his lifetime.

A large oil painting of Attila hangs in the living room of Klein's House. The professor is shown in leopard skin leotards. The painting was made in 1887 when Attila was honored to perform at Queen Victoria's Jubilee in London. "He was selected out of all the strongmen in Europe," said Klein.

Klein's original collection of steins all had one thing in common: either the motif of barbells or a bust of Frederick Ludwig Jahn who founded the first turnverein in 1811.

A fancy cross was a symbolic reference to 4-F (made by placing four letter F's together). Klein likes to point out that 4-F is a sign of health in Ger-

many and an indication of just the opposite in the U.S.

The four F's represent *frisch*, *fromm*, *froh* and *frei*, meaning fresh, loyal, happy and free.

Klein has been publicized for both his weight lifting and his stein collecting. A cover story in *Hobbies* magazine in 1948 showed many of Sig's 4-F steins. He was featured in a magazine called *Strength* when he was 20 years old. Articles about Sig Klein appeared in health magazines in France, Germany, England, and Sweden. He won an international contest for muscularity and beauty of form sponsored by a French magazine, *La Culture Physique*.

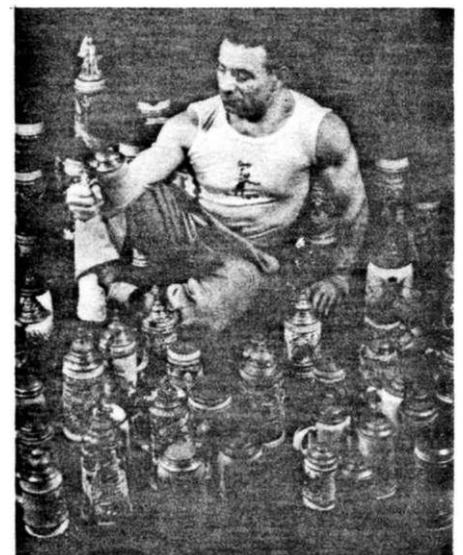
"Believe It or Not," Robert Ripley featured Klein in his column eleven different times—the most anyone was ever featured in the late Mr. Ripley's popular feature.

Ripley was a stein collector himself. Klein got to know Ripley quite well. Another acquaintance of Klein's was Joe Cook, the old vaudeville performer and another stein collector.

Sig finds it difficult to single out one stein as his favorite but says, "It could be the five-liter one with the knight sitting on a white charger holding a stein in one hand. He has seven of the five-liter giants.

His collection also includes about 30 plaques and several Royal Vienna plates depicting monks in drinking scenes.

There will be a host of people toasting to the continued good health of Siegmund Klein at the Brooklyn testimonial affair. Throughout this great land, a host of his collector friends will also toast a stein full in tribute to a fine personality.



NO DUMBBELL is Klein the collector of steins. These are some of the 200 pieces depicting weight training that he discarded before turning to steins with drinking scenes on them.

## Rudin Adds To BIG Mystery

Russ Rudin believes he almost owned the world's largest beer stein.

The St. Louis collector attended an annual flea market in his area about three years ago. "A huge blue and gray stein was put up for sale at \$250," reports Rudin. "It was over six feet tall with a set-on lid which had the bust of Kaiser Wilhelm."

No one bought the stein at the asking price so they accepted bids on the 200-pound piece. Rudin bid \$115 ("against my wife's wishes") and lost to the stein's eventual new owner at \$125.

Rudin rationalized his loss by repeating his wife's lament: "Where in the world would I have gone with such an elephant?"

Rudin described the gigantic stein from memory. "There were three niches or alcoves in the body of the stein. Each had a knight on a horse standing in its opening."

Rudin believed the stein was made for a restaurant as an advertising item. "It was certainly eye-catching," says Rudin.

He does not know who outbid him for what may be the largest stein in the world. And the mystery of the world's largest drinking vessel continues.

## Directory Coming, Ready in March

Recent requests for names and addresses of collectors in certain areas have helped to reinforce the need for the upcoming directory of SCI members.

A couple hundred of the listing forms were returned. If anyone else wants to be listed, the information should be sent in soon. Print out name, address, city, state zip area, and complete phone number (area code in parenthesis).

The directory should be available in March. It can be predicted that many members will complain they were left out when the final listing is out. So get IN now.

Orders should not be made until the announcement of the availability of the directory is made in *der Gem*.

## KAMMERER'S KORNER

By George E. Kammerer



A collector of Mettlach will eventually run onto a representation of Father Jahn and his Turnverein Society pictured on a stein.

**I found some interesting background on this man. Ludwig Friedrich Jahn is often called "Father of Gymnastics." The father title is not a religious one but purely honorary in nature.**

Father Jahn opened the first outdoor gym in Berlin. His endeavor was to build men to fight and defeat Napoleon. The gymnasium society soon became the center of German nationalism. After Napoleon's defeat in 1815, Jahn became the state teacher of gymnastics. His outspoken views on the need for governmental reform caused his political enemies to trump up charges which led to Jahn's imprisonment for a number of years.

However, when free constitutions were granted by the government, Ludwig Jahn was honored by being elected to the first German parliament of 1848.

**Clipped from the Milwaukee Sentinel: ". . . And in the wonderful old world German atmosphere in the Milwaukee Turners Club, 1034 N. 4th St., you quaff delicious beer out of traditional German steins. You are reminded of Munich beer gardens, until you turn the stein over and read, 'Japan'."**

The Fred Usinger Sausage Store in Milwaukee has been in operation since 1880. The walls of this retail store are covered with original painted murals of the type found on old Mettlach pieces. Artist George Peter completed the art work in 1906. The scenes portray elves in various phases of old world sausage making. Each mural has a clever German verse.

## Shullys Are 1st Canadians

As SCI's roster moves past 400, the club is becoming more international. The first Canadians joined in December. Harold and Norma Shully of Toronto are proud to be No. 1 from Canada.

Their collection has been extended to toby mugs. To accommodate their copper and pewter pieces they converted their basement into an authentic old English pub. "We will be thrilled to share an ale with any members who happen to be passing through our fair city, claims Harold Shully. So the address is 41 Avenal Drive, Toronto 10, Ont., Canada.

## 2 Ways To Slow Down On Stein Collecting

Lt. Gene Addison, newly married, goes to Phan Rang in March. He anticipates that war and marriage will slow down his collecting for a while.

BREWERY EST. IN 1853  
NOW OUT OF BUSINESS

25 beer label asst.  
\$1.00 postpaid.

12"xl5" "No Minors served" display  
card. \$1.00 postpaid

12" Elec. Revolving Brewery display  
lamp. \$3.75 postpaid

History of Brewery brochure. Illu-  
strated. \$5.00 postpaid.

Colorful Tap Beer Knobs  
\$1.50 postpaid

Brilliant scarce metal beer bottle  
openers. 50c postpaid.

Special Asst. of all items including  
other advertising material  
\$10.00 postpaid.

T. R. HORNER ANTIQUES

1327 W. Franklin St.

Evansville, Ind. 47710

**Part II of the R. J. Schaefer Stein Collection Will Appear in March Edition.**



Collecting can be a drag. The miser who hides his horde of coins in the confines of his house, shares his collection with no one.

Accumulation of anything—antiques, animals or ancient artifacts—is of little significance unless the accumulation has some meaning and is shared with others.

A hobby of collecting takes on new meaning when something is learned about the collected items and when others share in the knowledge. Stein Collectors International has thrived because of this fact. \* \* \* \* \*

**Many members have indicated that stein collecting has never been as much fun as it is now—now that SCI and DER GEMÜTLICHKEIT spread the world about the sport of hunting steins.**

Kingsley Traylor of Norfolk, Va., sums up, "I sure do appreciate what SCI has done for all of us."

Robert Schluppe of North Canton, Ohio, a new member, finds he already knows so many of the folks that he has been reading about in *der Gem*. Schluppe complimented SCI for "furthering the cause of stein collecting."

"This is the most exciting club we've ever belonged to," writes Ernestine Lambertus of Indianapolis. She and husband Frank are already planning ahead for convention No. 2 in Milwaukee. \* \* \* \* \*

**Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Baerren of Toledo, Ohio, spent 28 days in Europe starting July 18. "We were in Scotland, England, Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Germany, Austria and Switzerland," wrote Al Baerren.**

Speaking of Europe, SCI will try it again. Not this year but the summer of 1969. The new itinerary will be stretched to 30 days and will include some stops that were not on the last trip. I'm thinking of Vienna, Berlin, more time in Bavaria and Germany. Suggestions on itinerary would be appreciated. \* \* \* \* \*

Ken Wittich, Jr., is a 31-year-old travel agent from Coral Gables, Florida. He started collecting beer steins 15 years ago when he was in high school. "I presently have over 225 including over 20 from the more prominent universities and academies," says bachelor Ken.

**Just returning from a European jaunt which included Rome, Germany, England and Russia, Ken recently left Florida again, this time for Jamaica.**

Robert Paddi, a career sergeant in the U. S. Army, just got transferred to Darmstadt, Germany. After being in Germany for one month, Sergeant Paddi wrote, "I added 56 steins to my collection." His additions included six regimentals, V&B Nos. 1266, 1909 and 1526 plus two other V&Bs which were unmarked. He also found eight character steins, two of which were Musterschutz.

He did his shopping in Frankfurt, Heidelberg, Wiesbaden, Bad Hamburg, Mannheim and Kaiserslautern. A guy who knows his way around can still do quite well in the Old Country, apparently.

Bob invites SCI members to look him up if they are traveling in his area. Here's the address:

MSgt. Robert P. Paddi  
6910 Spt. Gp., Box 109  
APO New York 09175

**Sgt. Paddi gave two phone numbers: Darmstadt Military 8464 and 8767—weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.**

"I would be more than happy to show members around," wrote Bob. Paddi would like to see SCI dues go up and the bulletin become a monthly affair. Some might agree but an editor who is too pooped to publish says, "Not right now." Keep those letters coming, Bob, . . . and all you other pen pals.

Wife Karen has done a tremendous job of organizing the files in my 8x8 foot headquarters. We have a smoother flowing set-up now, thanks to the boss. So I gave her a swell Christmas present—a beer stein with her name engraved on it. Trouble is she collects toby mugs.

## Stein Exchange

ANSWERS XO PREVIOUS EXCHANGE

Pg. 40, No. 9—To Mrs. Thomas.  
Here's translation of Latin: "While we are young boys, we guard against being struck." From Kirk Power, 1320 1/4 Ventura Blvd., Studio City, Calif. 91604.

ATTORNEY COLLECTOR desires Mettlach No. 2001A per SPINNING WHEEL story (September 1966). F. Moore, 4724 Southridge Terrace, Fort Worth, Texas 76133.

DOES ANYONE HAVE a duplicate Musterschutz Kaiser stein with sideburns? Or Kaiser with standing Eagle atop his helmet—TO SELL OR TRADE? J. J. O'Neil, 87 Industry, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15210.

I'M LOOKING FOR a Meissen or a Royal Vienna stein to add to my growing collection. Anyone have any leads? F. J. Schroeder, P. O. Drawer 1048, Seguin, Texas 78155.

I HAVE RUN INTO difficulty trying to find a reference book on German or European pewter which identifies manufacturer's touch marks. Who knows of any books on this subject? Walter Buttikus, 44 Britten Road, Green Village, N. J. 07935.

METTLACH PLATES (2-matched); blue painting under glaze; 17-1/4 in. in diam.; perfect condition; Dutch scenes; Both plates No. 1044; signed, "A. Meidas"; Large V & B - M on backs in script under glaze; made before castle mark used; EXTREMELY RARE pair; \$150. ea. Also Mettlach punch bowl, No. 3432; inlaid stoneware; castle mark; \$95. 4 to 5-liter size. Also Mettlach stein, No. 1734; castle mark; signed by Prof. Warth; inlaid & jeweled; \$120. For complete descriptions write — J. A. Ely, Jr., 839 Bowie Rd., Rockville, Md., 20852.

I COLLECT OLD German beer steins (not Mettlachs). I will purchase these older Bavarian type beer steins (with or without Pewter tops) providing that the price is right. George Dermody, 1614 W. Waveland Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60613.

TRADE, BUY SELL . . . If you have Mettlach V & B items, old character steins, then let's communicate. Jack Heimann, 1653 Pinehurst, St. Paul, Minnesota 55116.

## 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.

## - WANTED -

for collection & resale

- \* Old Beer Signs (Before 1920).
- \* Mugs Sold or Given Away by Breweries.
- \* Old Beer Bottles from Maryland, D. C. or Virginia.
- \* Other Brewery Advertising Items.

D. M. BROWN  
928 W. Broad St  
Falls Church Va. 22046