



THE DRINKING vessels in the Pabst collection represented all shapes and materials. Here a lady from the ad department cleans some silver pieces.

Nothing Definite On Jap Mettlachs

Some members of SCI are not convinced that Mettlach steins are being reproduced in Japan, as reported in the last *der Gem*.

Leonard Gazin of Los Angeles claims that the fear of Mettlachs being reproduced has been with us for years. "But I've never seen a good one," he says.

Report from other members do indicate that some imitating is being done.

J. W. Talarsky of Portland, Oregon, wrote that he had been on vacation in Ohio where he attended an auction at which several Mettlach steins were auctioned off.

Talarsky reports, "Four of the steins being auctioned off were No. 171, half-liter cameo type. The workmanship on them was not up to the Mettlach quality and on the bottom was stamped a castle mark in black ink. The numbers embedded on the bottom were too sharp and were of a different type than ordinarily used."

Mettlach No. 171 has been imitated previously, according to other reports from SCI members.

However, no members were able to come up with a good etched imitation for the convention at Milwaukee.

The people at Mettlach were notified and have made some attempt to procure a replica of one of their originals. They have had no luck.

Officials at Villeroy and Boch and at SCI headquarters would like to obtain a picture of a reproduction.



A PART of the Pabst stein collection is this massive ivory piece. It was originally made as a hunting trophy for a man named Hershey — the famous chocolate manufacturer. Later this stein was owned by Robert Ripley—believe it or not fame. The carved ivory was mounted in sterling-silver by Tiffany of New York.



SLIGHTLY CONFUSED at the Milwaukee convention was newly elected vice-president Dr. Joseph Hersh. In his right arm is Josette DeLaittre who was named Miss Beer Stein in an informal moment. On the other side is wife Evelyn.

JOSEPH HERSH ELECTED AND PITTSBURGH IS NEXT

Pittsburgh ruled the overwhelming choice of conventioners at Milwaukee. In assembly at Pabst's Blue Ribbon Hall for an unforgettable dinner, the delegation chose Dr. Joseph Hersh as new vice-president. Moments later they named Pittsburgh as the convention site for 1969.

The popular Pittsburgh surgeon was

nominated by Paul Cornell, Anaheim, Calif., seconded by Joe Durban, Monterey Park, Calif. It was a unanimous vote.

Before the convention had ended, Hersh and his wife Evelyn were making plans for another crowd-pleaser in Pittsburgh. They also indicated they would join the group for a second tour of Europe next summer.

Lucky Milwaukeeans Win 2 Out of 3 Steins

New President Kurt Sommerich won a half-liter Mettlach tapestry stein in the drawing at the recent Milwaukee convention.

It was a double victory for the new SCI president. He was presented the club's gavel a few moments earlier. The gavel is a miniature tankard on a handle. Outgoing president Jack Heimann filled the approximately 1/25 liter pewter piece with brew and Kurt finished it in one breath.

Heimann was given a large pewter stein in recognition of his efforts as the club's first president.

The drawings and presentations were held at a luncheon in Karl Ratzsch's Old World Restaurant. Ironically enough, another Milwaukeean, Carol Paulson, won a Mettlach beaker marked Milwaukee which was donated for the drawing by Milwaukeean Don Stuart.

Mama (Helena) Ratzsch got in the mood of the drawing and tossed in one of Ratzsch's regular house mugs. It was won by Ernestine Lambertus, Indianapolis.



RENEE VON SCHLIENTZ was typical of the Milwaukee hosts at convention. He enjoyed himself at Schlitz Brown Bottle Room and then invited a group to see his private collection of steins and art treasures.

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I'm still so **gung ho** about Milwaukee that I may break into a chorus of "On Wisconsin" on moment's notice. Attendance tripled over the New York convention. We had 21 registered at New York as compared to 65 in Milwaukee.

The grandest affair at Milwaukee was the dinner at Pabst. The Blue Ribbon Hall was royally decorated as more than 80, including special guests, gathered to see the Pabst steins and drinking vessels. The more than 200 pieces were unpacked for the SCI convention. An armed guard was on duty all the while—not just when SCI members were there, but around the clock. Miss Grace Ellis, the public relations expert for Pabst, and her mates from the company's ad department, dusted and cleaned the steins as they were removed from large barrels.

The folks at Pabst presented outgoing president Jack Heimann with a package of Wisconsin delicacies and a giant stein-full of beer. Jack quickly passed the beer-drinking honor to Kurt Sommerich who took over as SCI's second president.

Our lunch at Mader's was attended by 75 although that may have included a couple of people off the streets. At Karl Ratzsch's we had our own room upstairs where we crammed 72 into a cozy atmosphere.

The antique show in the hotel was almost cancelled but at the last second five Milwaukee dealers showed up. Some of them asked to follow the group to Pittsburgh next year. A conservative estimate would indicate that members bought more than a hundred steins while in Milwaukee.

* * * * *

To me all of the guests were special. I wish I could mention them all. Here are some names.

Harvey Murphy is perhaps the world's greatest repairman—and it's only a hobby. Murphy literally taught himself to repair steins, the pewter or the porcelain. And he's so good that he should sign his work. He repaired a porcelain dragon handle on Mettlach No. 1786 and it appeared authentic. He makes inlaid lids to perfection. His specialty is the top of a "Black Forest" Mettlach.

When Murph gave his slide show and chat on his hobby of working with damaged steins, collectors from all over the U.S. sat up. They interrupted with applause on more than one occasion.

If Harvey Murphy of Glen Cove, New York, had ever lived in Mettlach, Germany, his name would have been placed along side that of Heinrich Schlitt.

* * * * *

Joseph Hersh, newly elected vice-president, was an instant success at the convention. Flashing about with his handlebar mustache, Dr. Joe added more life to an already lively Milwaukee convention. He has already made extensive plans for the Pittsburgh convention. He's working on a house-to-house tour.

Robert Mohr, author and youngster, reported on his **Mettlach Steins and Their Prices**. He indicated SCI could have many more members. He has sold more than three times as many books as SCI has members. Everyone expected Mohr to be more than middle aged and he wasn't even that. His secretary on the book venture is wife Mary. She answers the letters.

Edith Sommerich, Kurt's wife, was instrumental in setting up so much of the local color for the convention. A round of applause is well deserved for both Kurt and Edith.

Renee von Schleinitz, gentleman and art connoisseur, invited a limited number of members to visit his lake-front home to see his rare collection of art and steins. It was a treat for all concerned.

Mama Ratzsch was a treat in herself. She is the collector of steins for the family restaurant.

Columnist George Kammerer showed up for the last evening—our quietest affair, but not his fault.

Chicago's Herb Jeddy proved to be a fine, though loud, song leader at the Schlitz Brown Bottle Room.

Missouri's Earl and Marlene Moore may have been the most striking couple. However, they may have aged considerably when they allowed that Connecticut couple of Richard and Ruth Stanley to drag them about seeking a female Tiny Tim.

Jack Lowenstein provided sample catalog pages for cataloguing stein collections. He also had copies of an old advertisement for Mettlach steins which he passed out.

I shouldn't have started this name-dropping. Where do I stop? I have to mention that my wife, Karen, made it to Milwaukee, proving at last that I am married. She swears she will never miss another SCI convention even though she is no stein collector.

California defeated Florida in the attendance battle, 9-1. But Florida's Rad Smith could hold his own against most anyone in a stein discussion. Californians included Joe and Mary Durban, Monterey Park; their son Mark, SCI's youngest member at 11; John Breznikar, Adrian Stickney, Bud Ferguson, Paul Cornell, and Ray Wilkerson.

Several of those I have mentioned were also at New York. Others who have made both conventions now include John J. O'Connor, Marcia Roode, Ed Langham (and his wife Julia made it to Milwaukee this time), Frank and Ernestine Lambertus, and Wally and Dorothy Schardin.

I have to stop somewhere. Those who missed it should try to be in Pittsburgh next time around.

Our second tour of Europe will follow. The itinerary is being finalized but will be heavily endowed with Bavaria. Roughly we will start in Frankfurt, and will include Mettlach, much of Switzerland, Salzburg, Munich, Vienna, Prague, Heidelberg, Berlin—21 days in all.

One of the newest members of SCI is V&B. A Dr. Decker of Villeroy & Boch wrote to join the membership. The folks at Mettlach practically started all of this trouble. They should be in it now. Welcome!

Death has taken two SCI charter members in recent months. Ed Firbank of Garden Grove, Calif., passed away early in the year. Larry Paulson of Milwaukee died early this year.

Our man in Europe, Sgt. Bob Paddi, discovered another collector. While on a shopping spree in Heidelberg, Bob met Lt. Roger Lowe, an Army man who found that hunting for old steins can be fun. The two shopped together. And Roger wrote to join SCI.

After Paddi's address and phone numbers appeared in der Gem, he was contacted by a fellow Air Force sergeant, Dick Miller who was stationed at Rhein Main Air Base, not far from Darmstadt where Paddi is headquartered.

Dick and Bob had a stein safari in Weisbaden last February. Dick is the son of SCI members Richard and Rose Miller of Fort Worth, Texas. The Millers were in Milwaukee for the convention.

Kirk Power operates a manly antique shop west of Los Angeles. His House of Steins is located at 13029½ Ventura Blvd. in Studio City. Kirk welcomes SCI members for a look-see. He gives ten per cent off to card-bearing members.

New heading on this column is a one-shot deal so I can show my Karen and one of the pewter steins of the Pabst collection.

How about some material for the September edition. Good photos, interesting stein stories, free Stein Exchange ads????



LOOKING OVER some of the "buys" at the antique show in hotel lobby at convention are these avid collectors. In the unusual sport shirt is Tom Crocker. Following across to the right: Richard Miller, Herbert Jeddy (partially hidden), John O'Connor, Jack Heimann (partially hidden), and M. N. "Sig" Sigovich.



"PROSIT," says Kurt Sommerich, new president of SCI, as he shares a cool one with the patron saint of Brewing at Pabst Brewing Co. in Milwaukee.



ENJOYING THE FEAST at Pabst are, left to right, R. H. Mohr, Mary Mohr, Marleen Moore, Earl Moore and Russ Rudin.

der Gemütlichkeit

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TWO-TIMERS at SCI national conventions are Harvey Murphy, left, of Glen Cove, New York and Ed Langham of Dallas, Texas.