

STEIN COLLECTORS INTERNATIONAL BRAGS OF TWO REGIONAL GROUPS

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First officers of the first regional chapter of SCI are these jovial tipsters, left to right: Der Schreiber, Norm Medow; Marks Minister, Chuck McKittrick; Chancellor Paul Cor-

nell, and Vice-Chancellor Joseph Durban. Each says "Prosit" with a favorite personal stein. Erste Gruppe will meet quarterly.

Erste Gruppe Forms Southern California Chapter First: Proud Minnesotans Challenge with Second Group

Two regional chapters of Stein Collectors International have been formed.

Leading the way was a group of Southern Californians who met at the home of Paul and Donna Cornell on Oct. 19 for an organizational meeting. They had 24 collectors present.

The chapter was named "Erste Gruppe," German for first group. The imaginative Erste Gruppe members then

dubbed their newly elected officers with unusual titles too.

Herr Cornell was elected Chancellor (president). Joe Durban was named Vice-Chancellor. Chuck McKittrick became Marks Minister (treasurer) and Norm Medow was chosen Der Schreiber (secretary).

In Minnesota on December 6, at the home of Tom Crocker, the second group

of SCI was formed to serve the state of Minnesota. Host Crocker was named the group's president.

With 19 members in attendance, they elected Art Maethner vice-president and Dorothy "Petunia" Schardin secretary-treasurer. The group remained unnamed for the time being.

At the Minneapolis meeting were 13

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Southern Cal, Minnesota Set Precedent for Chapters

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collectors who had attended the national convention. SCI's first president, Jack Hermann, was among them.

Minutes from both groups indicate that the regional chapters will enjoy their hobby-sharing in their respective areas. Both organizations plan to meet quarterly-

Erste Gruppe meets next on Feb. 8 at the home of Chuck McKittrick. Southern Cal collectors who have not yet joined Erste Gruppe can join the fun at McKittrick's (phone DUnkirk 2-7272).

The Minnesotans will be meeting again on March 7 at the home of John Boller in St. Paul. RSVP by phoning 454-2382.

Dues vary widely for the two groups. Erste Gruppe is spending big at \$5 per quarter. The funds cover any and all expenses for the gatherings. Minnesotans charge only \$1 per year for each couple. All they hope to cover is postage and correspondence. Members will take turns hosting the meetings, following an alphabetical list of members.

Both new groups plan to have members bring steins for sale and trade—or just for exhibit. Both groups also hope to have some educational program about



Tom "Splash" Crocker is the duly elected president of the Minnesota chapter of SCI. The group meets again at the home of John and Donna Boiler on March 7.

steins at their meetings.

Cornell is leading his Erste Gruppe to a full first year of activities. The officers include the wives of the elected officials.

Added as board members were Carl Klafs, Bill Webster and Tom McClelland—and their spouses.

The Erste Gruppe even plans to hold board meetings in between their regular quarterly get-togethers.

Adopted by Erste Gruppe as official mascot was a two-foot carved wooden statue of a portly gentleman standing on a beer keg holding a stein high in his right hand. Owner Frank Love gave his approval and the figure was baptized "Herr Burgermeister." The mascot will attend all meetings of Erste Gruppe.

One of the Southern Cal's bigger goals is to tempt SCI to take its convention westward to the Southland in 1970. They even set up a special committee to promote the event.

At the Minnesota inaugural, host Crocker had some 200 steins and beer mugs on display. He cleaned his attic for the show.

The first two organizations have set the precedent and have proved that the regional gatherings can be rewarding. If others are interested in forming area chapters of SCI, they can write to headquarters for information in getting organized.



These collector wives will share officer duties with their husbands in recently organized Erste Gruppe—the first group—of Stein Collectors International. Left to right are

Ronnee Medow, Alice McKittrick, Mary Durban, and Donna Cornell. The group will meet next on February 8 at the Los Angels home of the McKittrick's.

Very Plain - but rarest of rare

By John A. Ey, Jr.

This Meissen "Red Stoneware" stein, the handiwork of Johann Friederich Boettger (also spelled "Bottger," etc.), is nine inches high and 4½ inches in diameter, and among the world's most rare and valuable.

The finial and thumbrest are sterling silver as is the trim surrounding the lid. As the picture of this stein indicates, the surface took a brilliant polish—almost mirror-like.

As far as it is known, the red stoneware pieces were made by Boettger in Meissen from about 1710 to 1713. They were of various shades, mostly reddish brown, and were extremely hard. Included were teapots, tea caddies, cups, bowls, and other drinking vessels, many with a Chinese motif and design.

The red stoneware lent itself to grinding, polishing, and cutting because of its hardness, and in 1712 there were at least ten glass-cutters in Bohemia, three in Meissen, and six in Dresden finishing and decorating the pieces turned out by Boettger and his co-workers. In Munich, Augsburg, and Nürnberg and other localities goldsmiths, silversmiths, and jewelers were engaged in mounting it in precious metals and with valuable stones.

The potters of France were satisfied with their "soft paste;" those of Holland with faience or Delft; but the man who

discovered the secret of making porcelain in the Western world was not a potter—but an alchemist—Johann Friederich Boettger. Born in Thuringia in 1682, he was apprenticed to an apothecary when only 16. He dreamed of finding the "philosopher's stone," and of the transmutation of metals. Rumors of young Boettger's purported ability to make gold caused his capture and detention by King

August the Strong of Saxony. He was imprisoned, given assistants, equipment, and expenses, and told to make gold or else . . .!

Boettger never made gold, but with an uncommon enthusiasm, he and his assistants set out to make porcelain instead, having convinced the King that taxes could be squeezed from porcelain, and goldmaking left to later.

On their way to making porcelain, Boettger and his assistants in 1708 came up with a "red porcelain" ware so hard it could be cut

with a wheel after firing; later, after much experimentation, they did create "white porcelain" — for the first time in the Western world—but no gold!

So it came to be that the King's ultimatum to make gold resulted in Boettger's Meissen "Red Stoneware"—or we should say, with so few pieces surviving to this day in museums and private collections, maybe Boettger did, after all, make gold!



Lyrics Proposed for SCI Song

EIN PROSIT DER GEMÜTLICHKEIT

by Jack G. Lowenstein

Raise your stein
Clink your stein,
Fellowship in gay delight.
Raise your stein
Drain your stein:
Ein prosit der Gemütlichkeit!

Bring more beer—
Give a cheer:
The golden brew shall
flow all night!
Have a fling,
Loudly sing:
Ein Prosit der Gemütlichkeit!

A toast to malt
A toast to hops
A toast to everything that's right—
A toast to you
A toast to me:
Ein Prosit der Gemütlichkeit!

Raise your stein
Raise your voice:
Merriment is the rule tonight;
Come along,
Join in song:

Ein Prosit der Gemütlichkeit!

*** Prosit! ***

STEINS: old & authentic. Loan of color photo & prices—25c.

OLD WORLD ANTIQUES
June Dimsdle

8009 Corona Kansas City
Kansas 66112

Old German Beer Steins Wanted (Other Than Mettlachs). I buy and sell OLD Bavarian type pewter top beer steins with happy scenes and typical German verse. Prefer 1L size and large. Also buy old pewter tops for steins. What do you have in old German steins to sell or trade? Mail complete info to: George T. Dermody, 1614 W. Waveland Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60613.

FOR SALE

13 steins of an individual owner. These are of all types including one Mettlach (No. 1526). All are old steins except one military reproduction. Any others that are proven to be new steins the purchaser's money will be refunded on a pro-rated basis. Will be sold as a collection only. Photos furnished. Price of \$325. Contact Mr. James Cole, 933 Dawson Street, Aurora, Colorado. Phone: (303) 366-1078.

HOTEL WILLIAM PENN
July 10-13

PITTSBURGH

BIG ATTRACTION: A trip to Lancaster on chartered bus to see the world's greatest stein collection—the William Schwartz steins, followed by a grand dinner in Lancaster honoring Mr. Schwartz as the dean of stein collectors. There'll be much more — a convention to remember. Plan your vacation dates now. Share the camaraderie of others at Pittsburgh's finest hotel

PLAN TO PARTICIPATE

CONVENTION NO. 3

Stein Exchange

LOOKING FOR information and price guide on unmarked Capodi-Monte. J. Barnard, 467 East Ave., Lockport, N.Y. 14094.

WANTED: Mettlach steins No. 1161 (5L) and 1830 (3L). Also looking for Mettlach plaques, etched with scenes of castles. I want proof of perfect condition, price and photo. Siegmund Klein, 717 Seventh Avenue, New York City 10036.

I'M LOOKING TO BUY a good quality Capodi Monte stein which I want to see on approval. Contact me for details. Arthur W. Dial, 8120 E. Jefferson Ave., No. 1L, Detroit, Mich. 48214.

MUSTERSCHUTZ character stein for sale. Hindenburg-like German soldier, porcelain, mint (see "Der Gem," p. 10, upper right). Jack Lowenstein, RFD 4, Raymond Road, Princeton, N. J. 08540.

Japanese Not Producing V&B

Consensus has it that there are no Japanese Villeroy and Boch products being made at this time.

Though some members swear they have one or have seen one, there has been much valid evidence that the Japanese are not mass-producing replicas of Mettlach steins.

A more thorough wrap-up of the various opinions on this matter will be published in the next *der Gem*.

Europe Tour No. 2

SCI's second tour to Europe is scheduled to follow the Pittsburgh convention, departing from New York on July 14. A tour brochure was sent with this copy of *der Gem*. For additional copies or more information, just write to SCI headquarters.

COLLECTION OF 72 BETTER-THAN-AVERAGE STEINS For Sale including 4 Mettlachs:

3 L Wedgewood type No. 2210

1 L etched No. 2690

½ L etched No. 1932

½ L PUG NO. 606—ALL PERFECT

WHOLE COLLECTION IS \$2,897. Please write for pictures and list. George Schamberger, 47 Westwood Drive, Rochester, New York 14616.

WANTED — Mettlach steins and plaques, Musterchutz characters, Royal Vienna, Meissen, Kreussen, Capodi-Monti and Faience steins. Collections or singles bought outright or trades arranged. Send your "have" and "want" list.

ANITA and SOL BOTKIN
3278 Bertha Drive
Baldwin, New York 11510
(516) BA 3-8978



It was a very good year. We added 119 new members in 1968—and that's as of December 1, so we will improve some yet.

The biggest year was 1967 when 204 joined the ranks. In 1966 we added 149. We have tapered off somewhat but not too greatly.

The 500th person to join SCI was E. T. Gilham of Glendale, Calif. More recently, N. J. Hynson of Ellicott City, Maryland, was the 590th to join. Who will be 600th? Not you, dear member.

Active membership is hanging right around the 500 mark as we have had some dropouts. I'm not as well equipped as *Readers Digest* or any of the giant mags. I have been known to carry delinquent members for more than a year. Then when they finally send \$3, I wind up giving them a year free. "Get tough, Mac," says irate wife. We will be a bit tougher. I'll send one reminder of dues with the final *der Gemütliche* of each subscription. So drop everything. Run for the checkbook and remain a member in good standing of the unique clique of collectors of beer holders.

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SCI President Kurt Sommerich is recuperating from a double hernia operation. Right after the Milwaukee convention—the whole thing was engineered by Kurt—Pres. Sommerich and wife Edith decided they needed a bigger house. Kurt picked up something too heavy ("Not a Mettlach") while moving. All those who met Kurt at Schlitzville, wish him well. So get well, Kurt.

Incidentally, Kurt's new address is 1828 East Kenmore Place, Shorewood, Wisconsin 53211.

Jack Heinmaann, the club's first-ever president, was involved in some full color publicity in the Sunday, Nov. 24 edition of the Minneapolis *Tribune*. Jack was pictured with five of his prizes in living color. Wife Jeanne was shown with her collection of snuff bottles.

Speaking of publicity, an October article in the Indianapolis *Star* was quite informative and mentioned SCI and how to join. We got quite a few new members in Indiana right after that. Frank and Ernestine Lambertus were somewhat responsible for that article and the accompanying photos of two of their giant Mettlachs. They remained anonymous.

Dr. Joe Hersh and wife Evelyn recently returned from an around the world jaunt. Dr. Joe is hard at it getting squared away on the Pittsburgh convention.

For those who didn't get a copy of the birth announcement I should repeat that the McClellands stopped collecting steins for a spell. We are collecting kids. We added a mint condition Amy Lee on October 5. Not for sale.

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Among the new members:

Peter Spirito of Manchester, Conn., writes, "I only wish I had heard of your club sooner as I have been collecting Mettlach steins for ten years . . . My wife and I enjoy collecting very much. We hope to have the pleasure of meeting you and the group at the next convention in Pittsburgh."

Connecticut may be well represented at Pitt. Member Marcia Patterson plans to drag non-collecting husband to Pittsburgh for convention. He grew up in Pitt, and that is reason enough to return—even for an SCI convention.

Al Hiller was a stein dealer and importer for many years. He had a set of color postcards printed which depict some very fine steins. Any members wanting a set can get them by sending Mr. Hiller a dollar for a set of ten cards—postage included and that's a bargain. Thanks in advance, Al. Address: 1000 No. Pearl, Bridgeton, New Jersey 08302.

Slow boat (from China?) finally arrived and the commemorative steins have passed customs. They are on the way to those who attended the convention or ordered one separately at \$7 (postage and insurance included).

Henry Desser of Corona, Calif., tells me he thought Einstein was a beer. Well, Henry, it's all a matter of relativity. I'm with you. *Geben sie mehr Einstein bier bitte*.

Like the BIG collector in Texas—Ed Langham—says, "I drink my brew from cans like everybody else." So don't ask Ed who EinKan is. *Minekan ist Kaput*.