

MAY 2014 FEATURED STEIN

1901 PAN-AMERICAN EXPOSITION STEINS

By Ronald E. Gray © 2014



We are going to *Shuffle Off To Buffalo* for this month's Featured Stein. This song is from the 1933 Broadway musical 42nd Street (it is playing in the background if you are viewing this with Internet Explorer). These steins were made by White's Pottery Inc. of Utica, NY. The firm was founded by Noah White circa 1834. Stein production did not commence until 1885; stoneware production ceased circa 1907.¹ I bought the unofficial version to complement my eclectic collection. More importantly, this one featured a buffalo on the right hand side of the stein. Unlike the usual three scenes found on German steins, White's Pottery generally favored two scenes. This one had my name on it. I have a small collection of buffalos sitting around the house. Yes, I know there are no buffalos in America. Not that we killed all of them (it is estimated that about 75 million buffalos roamed North America before the white man's arrival)² as a means to eliminate a food and clothing source to the Indians, thus encouraging them to surrender. It seemed that every saloon in the Old West featured a buffalo's head over the bar. But, there never were any buffalos in North America. The American buffalo is a member of genus *Bison*. There are six species, of which two are extant – the American bison

and the European bison.³ We have gone too far down the wrong fork in the road to change the name now. Can you imagine me having a tribute to Bison Bill in the foyer of our home? How about coming home from school in the early days of television to watch Bison Bob and his pal Howdy Doody? Would you shuffle off to Bison to root for the Bison Bills? No, we aren't going to change now. My buffalo stein will just have to join the regimental steins and blue onion pattern steins in being stuck with the wrong moniker.

This stein proved to be one of the more interesting steins I ever acquired. I thought I was getting a “twofer” – a buffalo stein and a White's Pottery stein. It turns out I actually got a “fivefer” as you will soon see.

You would think having a buffalo on one side of the stein there would be another western scene on the other side, maybe an Indian or a cowboy. Not so, as the other side featured three men drinking from beer steins and using a barrel for a table. Obviously they were Germans. This was not unusual for a White's Pottery stein as they featured German scenes and phrases on their steins and employed Germans to design and produce their steins. But I was still puzzled why White's chose that scene to display with the buffalo. In addition, the scene seemed vaguely familiar, but I couldn't quite recall it. Soon after I purchased my stein, I saw another one on eBay,



Scene on the reverse side of both steins.



Buffalo on the left side.

although it was without the lid. I contacted the seller to see if he could enlighten me on the choice of the three Germans. He couldn't, but he did point out that his buffalo was on the left side whereas mine was on the right side. That is when I had my Eureka moment. Remember when you were small and asked if you could help your dad with a project? All dads would immediately tell their sons to go find a left-handed screwdriver or a left-handed monkey wrench. I had discovered a left-handed beer stein! The only question is which one is the left-

handed beer stein? I suppose it depends on your point of view, which scene does

one want to present to the public when they are drinking. This discovery of right and left handed steins makes this a “threefer” stein.

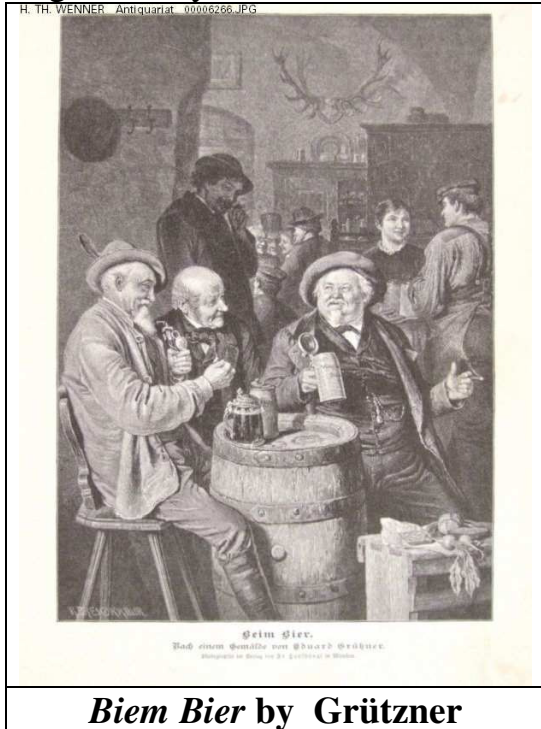
I found another listing that said the stein was more than likely made to order to be sold at the 1901 Pan-American Exposition held in Buffalo, NY. The listing even cited an article in the June 1, 1901 issue of the *Utica Daily Press*. Unfortunately, I couldn't pull up the article. I did, however, consult my book on White's Pottery⁴ and it confirmed they did make a souvenir stein for the Pan--American Exposition to be sold at their exhibit. Subsequently, I acquired the official 1901 Pan-American Exposition stein showing the official emblem rather than the buffalo. Vendors had to pay a license fee for the official emblem, which is why the buffalo, an appropriate symbol for the host city, was a popular substitute souvenir. The official emblem is quite clever as two women in billowing skirts form North and South America with their joined hands forming Central America. The emblem was designed by Buffalo artist Raphael Beck (1859-1947), who also designed the logo/emblems for the Lewis and Clark Exposition (1902) and the Louisiana Purchase Exposition (1903).⁵ If you remember your history, the 1901 exposition was where Leon Czolgosz shot President William McKinley on September 6, 1901. President McKinley died on September 14, 1901.⁶ I now had a “fourfer” stein as it is a piece of history representing a souvenir of the 1901 Pan-American Exposition.

Finally, I recalled where I had seen the scene of the three German men drinking by a barrel. I had recently completed an article on my Thewalt beer steins. Thewalt mold 336 contained the same scene. I also found the same or similar scene on Diesinger 34, Girmscheid 898 and 1130, Hanke 776, 1142, 1295, 1908 and 1919, Marzi & Remy 3089, Merkelbach & Wick 1122 and Zöller & Born has a newer version. Ceramarte made a newer version for the German distributor Kössinger (the mark under the capacity mark is “C-Kö”). I also found the scene on a McCoy Pottery mug and, in the ultimate form of flattery, it appears on Japanese beer steins too. White's Pottery produced a third version with a verse appearing on the opposite side. A Brown Ale Creek beer tap handle recently appeared on eBay that featured the same portly gentleman with his beer stein on a barrel on the top of the handle.



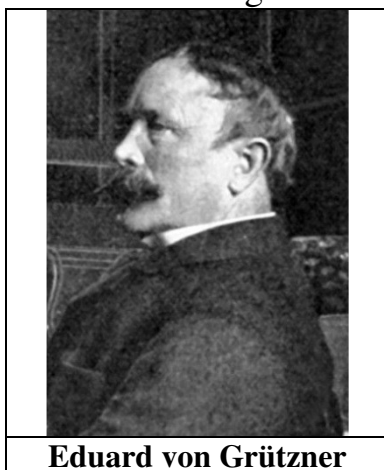
Thewalt 336
Drei Munchener

To have the same scene on so many steins must be an indication that it was based on a painting. I assumed I would have an easy time searching for this painting as I had Thewalt's title, *Drei Münchener* or *Three Munich Men*. Surely this also would be the title of the painting. As much as I searched the Internet for the painting, I had no luck in finding it over a several month period. Finally, late one winter's night shortly before Christmas 2012, when nothing was stirring in the house but



me and my mouse, I put in a search term I have long forgot. I clicked my mouse on a promising site and there suddenly appeared three men sitting around a barrel drinking beer. The one on the right was rather portly with a round, jolly face and white goatee. I knew at once that it was my long sought painting. I was looking at a print copied from a wood engraving. Maybe it originally appeared in a magazine. The title at the bottom was "*Biem Bier*" or "*With Beer.*" Those are the same words that appear on Desinger mold 34, although the scene on that stein shows two barrels being used for the drinking tables. Maybe the designer had to do that to accommodate the two-word title, one word appearing on each of the barrels. I take

this as confirmation that I now have the correct title of Grützner's work. Note that only the forefront of Grützner's work was used for the steins. I don't know what the copyright laws were back then, but you frequently find differences between the scenes on steins and the original work. I now had my "fivefer" stein complete, a stein with a forgotten work of art decorating one of the scenes.



On the left is a photograph of Eduard Theodor Ritter von Grützner (1846-1925) a German painter and professor who made his career in Munich. While you might think he has two middle names, Ritter is a title reflecting the fact that he was knighted (1916). Grützner was noted for his paintings of monks.⁷ Sixteen Lemp Brewery beer steins are shown at Joel Gandt's web site (just Google Lemp beer steins). These steins were made by Merkelbach & Wick and show scenes from Grützner's paintings of monks. I was able to find nine of the paintings and I am sure the rest are also based on his paintings.

If the portly figure on the right of the *Biem Bier* work seems familiar, maybe it's because he can be easily mistaken as a direct descendant of Sir John Falstaff but for the fact that Falstaff is only a figment of Shakespeare's imagination. It is believed that Shakespeare based Falstaff on a real character, John Oldcastle, but images of Oldcastle don't resemble the image we usually associate with Falstaff.⁸ Our image of Falstaff resembles the Grützner painting of "Falstaff with Pewter Tankard" shown below. Remember seeing that one? Look at the two Falstaff



Falstaff with Pewter Tankard

character steins by Reinhold Hanke and Merkelbach & Wick. Can there be any doubt that they were modeled after Grützner's Falstaff.

The Beer Stein Library also lists four other steins, Gerz mold 242, Girmscheid molds 650 and 688 and Hanke mold 1245, titled *Renaissance Drinker* and acknowledges it is intended to be Falstaff. I think it is safe to say that Falstaff was based on this Grützner painting. I am sure there are other such steins depicting this Falstaff image.

I decided to search for other Grützner inspired works. The Beer Stein Library listed Dümmler & Breiden molds 103, 104, 547 and 550 and Marzi & Remy mold 288, which has the initials "GT," as being from Grützner's "*Banquet in the Monastery*." I couldn't locate that painting, but I did locate a Grützner illustration entitled "*Falstaff ivre chez les moines de Bohème*" or "*Falstaff and drunken monks in Bohemia*."



Hanke & M&W Falstaff steins
Photos by The Beer Stein Library

	
<p>Dümmler & Breiden mold 547 Photo by Serguei Artiouchkov</p>	<p><i>Falstaff and drunken monks in Bohemia</i> Or Banquet in the Monastery</p>

The Beer Stein Library also credited a Grützner painting that appears on steins made by three other manufacturers. Dümmler & Breiden molds 536, 565, 571 and 794 are titled “*Falstaff and Bardolph*.” Girmscheid molds X20, 288, 858, 900 and 997 are titled “*Bardolph and Falstaff*,” while mold 901 is titled *Bardolph and Falstaff* and mold 930 is titled *Falstaff and Bardolph*. JW Remy mold 1221 is titled Falstaff and Bardolph. Roskopf & Gerz molds 327 and 381 are titled simply “*Falstaff*.” All four manufacturers show the same Grützner illustration titled “*Falstaff and Bardolph*.”

According to Frank Loevi of The Beer Stein Library, if the title in The Beer Stein Library is in quotes, either the title appears in the manufacturer’s catalog or it is on the mold.

If you have a stein that contains a scene that appears on steins made by another manufacturer, I challenge you

to conduct a search to see if you can find a corresponding painting it might have been based on. I was able to find a wealth of information just searching for one item on my beer stein. I am sure that there are a lot of paintings out there just waiting to be rediscovered by stein collectors.



During my research, I was surprised to find three steins that included the initials of the modeler on steins obviously featuring the work of another artist even though it might have been altered. The three steins are Marzi & Remy mold 288, *Banquet in the Monastery*, initials GT (Gustav Thinwibel); Girmsheid mold X20, *Bardolph and Falstaff*, initials AD (Adolph Dekker) and Girmscheid mold 858, *Bardolph & Falstaff*, initials GK (unknown). It seems to me that putting the modelers' initials with the work of another artist is misleading at best.

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