

SCI'S 54th Annual Convention, Wilmington, DE

SCI's 54th annual convention will be held in Wilmington, Delaware (Picture 1), October 5 through October 9, 2021. There will be two days of pre-convention activities: tours on October 5, and a commercial auction by Fox Auctions on October 6. The convention itself is Thursday through Saturday, October 7 through 9. Check-out from the hotel is Sunday, October 10.

The convention hotel is the Sheraton Suites Wilmington Downtown, 422 Delaware Avenue, Wilmington, DE, 19801. Although it is conveniently located downtown, the hotel is easily reached from Interstate - 95. It is about 18 miles from Philadelphia International Airport and one mile from Wilmington's Amtrak station. Delaware has no sales tax, and the hotel is about 15 minutes from Christiana Mall.

The hotel has been newly renovated. All suites have a living room and a separate bedroom. The living room sofa converts to a sleep sofa. Picture 2). Each suite has a high tech table with a switch to raise or lower its height and connectors to charge your phone and other electronic devices. The hotel has a complimentary shuttle that holds eleven passengers and operates within a two mile radius.

Wilmington was first settled in 1638 by Swedish immigrants, and their influence is still felt. The Kalmar Nyckel (Picture 3), a replica of the ship that brought the first settlers, is a popular



attraction. Old Swedes Church is one of the oldest still functioning churches in the United States. The reigning queen of Sweden in 1638 was named Christina; and Christina, or Christiana as the early settlers mispronounced it, is still a prominent place name in the Wilmington area.

But it is the du Pont family properties that are a prominent part of Wilmington's landscape. The du Pont's original works, founded in 1802, produced gunpowder. Family members built mansions including Winterthur with its many collections of antiques. They developed gardens so large that trams are provided for visitors. Longwood Gardens is a favorite.

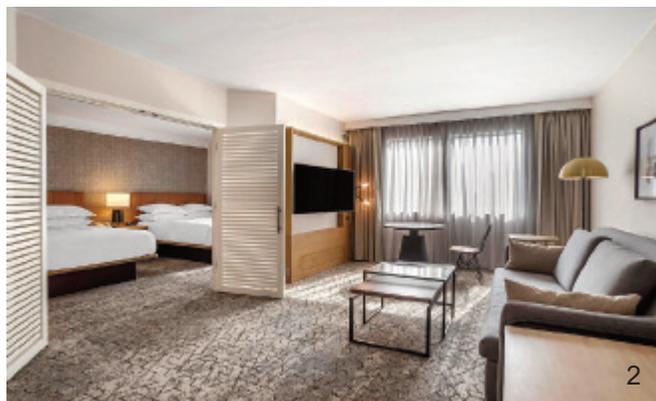
The convention rates at the Sheraton Suites Wilmington Downtown are \$112 for a single suite or \$122 for a double suite with two queen size beds. Indoor self-parking is complimentary for hotel guests and \$6 per day for other convention attendees. These rates are available for three days before and

three days after the convention period on a space available basis. To secure these rates reservations must be received by the hotel on or before Saturday, September 4, 2021. To make room reservations phone 1-888-627-7040 or 302-654-8300. Say you are with Stein Collectors International. Or, make a reservation online at: <https://tinyurl.com/kt6nzbtm>.

We have blocked fewer hotel rooms than normal because of this year's unusual circumstances. Once our block is full, there is no guarantee that rooms will be available. So, we urge you to make your hotel reservations early.

There are two easy ways to register for the convention: (1) Using the form which will be distributed to members and will also be on the SCI website. Mailing instructions are on the form for payment by check or money order. (2) Online with PayPal via a link on SCI's website: www.stein-collectors.org.

The registration fee is \$495 for a cou-



ple and \$265 for a single registration. The registration fee includes three buffet breakfasts, two dinners, the hospital room, and the convention stein. It also includes the program of speakers, round tables, stein sales and members' auction.

PRE-CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5

Three tours are planned for Tuesday, the first pre-convention day. In the morning you can choose to visit either the Hagley Museum (Picture 4) or Winterthur (Pictures 5,6). The afternoon tour goes to the historic district of New Castle.

HAGLEY MUSEUM

Hagley is the site of the gunpowder works founded by E. I. du Pont on the banks of the Brandywine River in 1802. The mills were stone on three sides and wood on the side facing the river, so the force of an explosion would go over the river. In spite of strict precautions, there were explosions. A bus takes visitors through the museum's 235 acres.

Our guided tour includes the gunpowder mills and restored buildings in the workers village. We will see demonstrations in Hagley's nineteenth century machine shop as well as a black powder explosion. We will also visit the first du Pont family home in America, their first office and first garden. We will see how the family lived, worked, and played at Hagley.

Hagley's restaurant is not currently open. However, we have reserved space for a catered lunch in a museum building that is now used for special events. Lunch is included in the price of the tour.

WINTERTHUR

Winterthur is a 175 room mansion on a nearly 1,000 acre estate. Henry Francis du Pont gradually trans-



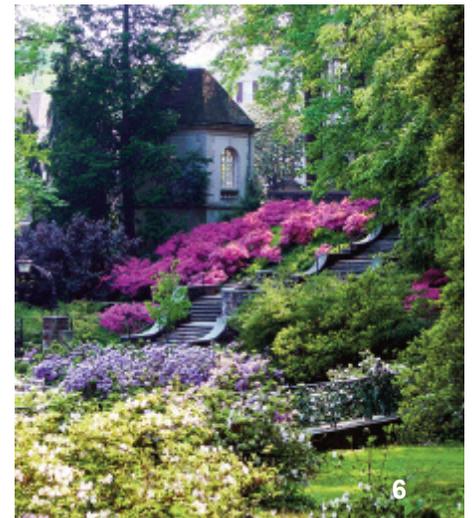
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formed it to house his many collections. He originally collected European art and decorative arts, and in the late 1920's he began collecting American items from the 1600s to the 1800s. His collections are displayed in period rooms so even the rooms are part of the collection. His collections were so large that he built a 30,000 square foot gallery in addition to the mansion.

Winterthur's cafe is open, and lunch is on your own in the cafe. We may also enjoy Winterthur's 60 acres of gardens.

NEW CASTLE'S HISTORIC DISTRICT

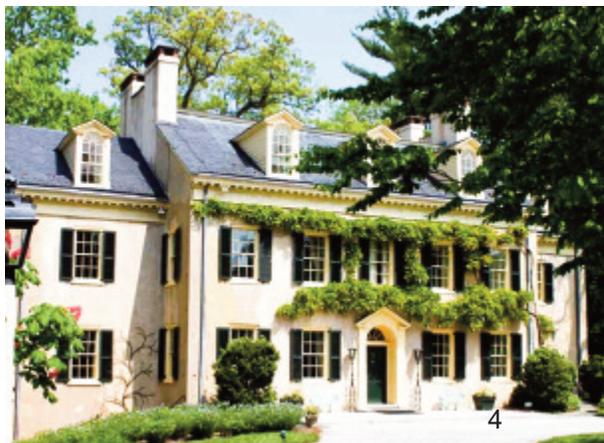
New Castle was founded in 1651 as a Dutch colony and later became Delaware's first capital. The city's historic district has 461 period buildings and is on the National Register of Historic Places.



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The New Castle Historical Society has developed a tour for us. We will begin with a walking tour to learn about the many taverns that existed in New Castle from its founding to about 1840 and the roles they played. (They were more than places to drink.) Only one is still a functioning tavern. Following the walking tour, we will go to the Arsenal to view antique drinking vessels from the Historical Society's collection.

The third part of our visit will be a guided tour of Amstel House (Pictures 7,8), a 1738 Georgian mansion and home to Delaware's seventh governor. In October Amstel House will feature a special exhibit of eighteenth century mourning practices.



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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5

Attendees may choose one of two tours on Tuesday morning: the Hagley Museum or Winterthur. Buses for both tours will leave the hotel at 9:15 AM. A catered lunch is included in the Hagley tour. Lunch on the Winterthur tour is on your own in the Winterthur cafe. Buses from both tours will return to the hotel at approximately 1:45 PM.



Buses for the New Castle historic district tour will leave the hotel at 2:30 PM. They will return at approximately 6:00 PM.

The Executive Committee will meet at 8:00 PM.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6

The Board of Trustees will meet at 7:00 AM.

The major event of the day will be a commercial auction by Fox Auctions. The preview will be from 9:00 AM to noon. The auction will begin at noon.

A first timers' reception will be held from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM. If you are attending your first SCI convention, the officers of SCI want to extend a warm

welcome. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and drinks while getting acquainted with them and other first timers.

CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

Each day of the convention will begin with a buffet breakfast.

We will have three speakers at general sessions:

1. **Mike Adkins** will speak on early stoneware: Creussen, Altenburg, and Annaberg.
2. **Albert Nameth** will speak on Bayreuth faience.
3. **Eric Salzano** will speak on ivory steins.

We will have seven round tables, each of which will be given twice. The round table leaders and their topics are:

1. **Jerry Berg** on "Daubenkrugs and Other Wood Staved Steins."
2. **Jack Clark** on "Bringing a Stein Back to Life: Researching Its Original Owner."
3. **David Harr** on "Stoneware Character Steins."
4. **John Harrell** on "Regimental Steins."
5. **Jim Sauer** on "Nineteenth Century Engraved Glass Steins."
6. **Steve Steigerwald** on "Identifying Unmarked Mettlach Steins."
7. **Walter Swett** on "Oktoberfest Steins."

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7

The convention will begin with the annual general meeting. We will then have the first two speakers: Albert Nameth and Eric Salzano.

The Stein Sales Room will be open in the afternoon. Steins can be consigned for the members' auction in the stein sales room.

Thursday evening will be German Night at Harry's Savoy Ballroom, a Wilmington institution famous for its prime rib and other entree choices. We will begin the festivities by crown-ing Miss Beer Stein. We will also have the traditional best costume contests,

so bring your Lederhosen and Dirndls.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8

The second day of the convention will begin with the first group of round tables. We will conclude the morning with sessions in which SCI officers explain their programs and discuss them with members.

The Stein Sales Room will be open again in the afternoon. Consignments for the members auction can be made in the stein sales room.

The Afternoon Tea (extra cost option) is normally held Friday afternoon. As this is being written, we have not settled on a location for the tea. We expect that will be chosen by the time this issue of *Prosit* is delivered.

Dinner will be on your own Friday evening. There are a number of restaurants from casual to fine dining convenient to the hotel.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9

The final day of the convention will begin with a presentation by our third general session speaker, Mike Adkins, speaking on early stoneware. Four round tables will complete the morning.

The members' auction will be in the afternoon.

The convention will conclude Saturday evening with a reception followed by dinner in the convention hotel.

The hotel and other venues advise us that they are following official guidance regarding covid-19. We hope that restrictions will continue to lessen in response to improved conditions, but some restrictions may still affect our convention. Of course, members who attend the convention should be vaccinated.

We look forward to welcoming you to SCI's 2021 convention in Wilmington. For any questions contact Richard Strom, stromrwk@gmail.com or 301-530-2403.

