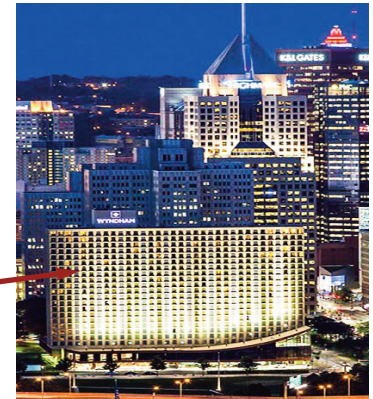


## Join Us in Pittsburgh to Celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of Stein Collectors International!

In 1965, Tom McClelland placed an advertisement in the *Antiques Trader* publication recruiting collectors of beer steins to join a fledgling, yet-to-be-named organization that would help prospective members “make discoveries about steins: heritage, markings, customs, values, prices, craftsmanship, legends, etc.” The advertisement had “better than . . . expected” results, as 23 persons joined almost immediately, and anyone who joined before 1966 became a charter member. The group’s first publication, *Der Gemütlichkeit*, was published in September 1965. “Believing that collectors will be interested in hearing about other collectors and their steins,” Mr. McClelland invited recipients of the quarterly bulletin to write letters. They also wrote letters and articles, forming the basis for today’s *Prosit* magazine (Picture 1, Masthead of first publication).



**STEIN COLLECTORS INTERNATIONAL**  
**An Unusual Correspondence Club**  
**Helps Collectors Share; Dream Scheme**  
**Gives Birth to Organization**

German Name Given  
 To Stein Quarterly

Der Gemütlichkeit was taken as the name of the SCI quarterly bulletin because the German noun represents a to-

**Convention Activities:** Fast forward to the week of August 11, 2025. Stein Collectors International members will gather for the third time in Pittsburgh, PA to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SCI. The overall theme of social activities will be “Back to the Sixties.” The Saturday night dinner will feature “*The Barons*,” a popular band in the tri-state area that performs Motown and R&B hits from the 1960s. We will have the best costume contest that evening, so dig through your closets or use your creativity to fashion an outfit straight out of the 1960s. We will also have the traditional German Night festivities, including the best German

outfit contest. We will be entertained by the “*Alpen Schuhplattler*,” a local group that specializes in Bavarian and Tyrolean dances. We will have the members’ sales room on Thursday afternoon and the member’s auction on Saturday afternoon. The high tea will be held on Friday afternoon in the fabulous Sky Lounge overlooking the three rivers and downtown Pittsburgh. (Picture 2 - “*The Point*”). Opportunities to socialize and chat with fellow members in a hospitality room will be afforded at designated times in the Governor’s Suite. Pictures 3 and 3a show, the Hotel and Hotel Meeting Room - site of the sales room, and auctions).

**Education:** Pittsburgh is known as “*The Steel City*” but before it became renowned for steel making, Pittsburgh was known as the Glass Making Capital of the United States. Several German glassmakers had emigrated to the area and set up shops in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Our leadoff speaker on Thursday morning will be Dr. Anne Madarasz, director of the curatorial division and chief historian at the Heinz History Center, who will talk about the history of Pittsburgh glass. Topics of other feature presentations include Bohemian cameo glass steins, occupational firemen steins, and German cycling club steins. Six roundtables are planned, including one that has the mysterious title of “*Twins, Triplets and Tombstones*.” Wonder what that could be about? Come to the convention and you will know!

A complete convention schedule of the titles, speakers, days and times of each presentation will be published in the June issue of *Prosit*.



**Pre-Convention Optional Activities:** On Monday, August 11, we will offer two tours of the City of Pittsburgh. The morning tour will be a city tour provided by Molly's Trolleys that rolls through downtown, North Shore, and Mt. Washington, with a stop for a ride on the Duquesne Incline. In the afternoon, attendees may enjoy a guided walking tour of Downtown Pittsburgh. Lasting two hours, the tour will be at a leisurely pace with several stops to enter buildings, including the historic William Penn Hotel, site of the third SCI convention in 1969. Perhaps we'll have somebody in our group who attended that convention?

In a continuation of the tour of Frank Lloyd Wright designed homes and buildings last summer in Madison, we are offering a guided tour of Fallingwater (Picture 4), considered to be Wright's masterpiece, on Tuesday, August 12. We will leave the hotel at 8:30 a.m. on a luxury, air-conditioned motorcoach, equipped with restroom, and will return late in the afternoon in time for the evening's executive committee meeting. A boxed lunch will be provided.



**Fox Auctions:** Fox Auctions will be hosting a commercial auction on Wednesday, August 13. As usual, some of the finest and rarest steins will be offered for purchase to the highest bidders.

**Trustees Meeting:** The SCI Board of Trustees will meet on Wednesday evening and reports will be made at the general membership meeting on Thursday morning.

**Convention Stein:** The convention stein is custom designed by member artist Ginger Gehres and pays homage to SCI's heritage and the occasion. It marks a return to themes of early convention steins.

**How to Register:** For your convenience, a registration form is included with this issue, or you may register online at the website, [www.stein-collectors.org](http://www.stein-collectors.org). Please observe the deadlines denoted on the form.

**Hotel Information:** Many museums, restaurants or cafes, bars, shops, and other attractions are within walking distance of the host hotel, the Wyndham Grand, overlooking the Point. We have negotiated a favorable rate of \$149 per night, run of the house, available three days before and after our event. Reservations may be made through the following link: <https://book.passkey.com/go/SteinCollect2025>. Or one may call the hotel directly at 412-391-4600 and ask for the Stein Collectors group rate. If anyone has difficulty making reservations, please contact John Kelly at 910-814-7848 and he will work with the hotel to address the issue. (Figure 6, Exterior Photo of Wyndham Grand)

**Traveling to Pittsburgh:** The city is located within 500 miles of nearly half of the U.S. population for those traveling by car, and Pittsburgh International Airport offers 125 daily non-stop flights. The Wyndham Grand Hotel is one mile from the Amtrak Station in Downtown Pittsburgh for those traveling by train.

**Exploring Pittsburgh:** Given the rate is available three days before and after our event, consider arriving early or staying after the convention to enjoy the many things to see and do in Pittsburgh. For a complete list, refer to [www.visitpittsburgh.com](http://www.visitpittsburgh.com). Here are

some places of interest compiled by Pittsburgh Stein Society member Tom Levenson:

## Cultural Delights

### Carnegie Museums - Four world-class museums

Carnegie Museum of Art: Explore diverse art collections.



Carnegie Museum of Natural History: Discover dinosaurs and gems.



Carnegie Science Center: Engage with interactive exhibits.







Andy Warhol Museum: Dive deeper into pop art.

### Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Garden



- Enjoy 15 acres of lush flora in any season.
- Peaceful indoor walking paths for leisurely strolls.
- Spectacular seasonal flower shows.

### Duquesne Incline

- Experience breathtaking city views (included in Molly's Trolleys tour).

### John Heinz History Center and Western PA Sports Museum

- Explore Western Pennsylvania's influence on national history and the careers of major sport figures.



### Point State Park and Fort Pitt Museum

- Learn about the Revolutionary War era Pittsburgh and its history.
- Stroll among acres of beautifully landscaped grounds and walking paths just across the street from the Wyndham Grand Hotel.

### Pittsburgh Theater District

- Experience world-class performances at venues like the Benedum Center and Byham Theater.
- Variety of shows including Broadway musicals, plays, and concerts.

### Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra

- World-class performances in the heart of downtown.
- Matinee shows perfect for those who prefer early evenings,
- Hearing assistance devices available upon request.

### PNC Park

- A short walk across the bridge from the Wyndham Grand Hotel puts you into the home of the Pittsburgh Pirates. An interactive walking tour of this beautiful ballpark (rated #1 amongst MLB ballparks from Ballpark Digest) will give you a broad view of the 38,000-seat facility with its classic view of the city's picturesque skyline. Contact PNC Park Tours for more information.
- Nearby Schenley Plaza offers resting spots and refreshments.

### National Aviary

- Up-close encounters with a variety of bird species.
- Indoor facility provides year-round comfort.
- Benches throughout for resting between exhibits.



### Strip District Markets

- Walkable area with unique shops, cafes, street vendors, specialty stores and much, much more.
- Taste Pittsburgh's diverse culinary offerings such as a unique Primanti Brothers Sandwich.



### Market Square

- A 5-minute walk from the Wyndham Grand Hotel.
- A two-block square of restaurants, cafes, coffee shops, and parks.

