

~ A Glossary Of German Stein Terminology ~

by Walt Vogdes



Occasionally a stein collector will come across the description of a beer stein written entirely in German. It's nice to know how to decipher it, but critical to understand it if it appears in an auction catalog! While an illustration goes a long way to recognizing what we are looking at, gaining an understanding of the description, especially if there is any damage, is essential. This is a U-Build-It Glossary of German stein collecting terms. We've seeded it with a few terms, but would like our visitors to make further contributions, or to comment on the definitions we have provided. It is presented in alphabetical order, like a dictionary, to ease the task of looking up unfamiliar words. Please send your contributions or comments to us by email at sci@steincollectors.org. We thank Joe Gehres for his help in reviewing this material and offering suggestions before it was published.

Absplitterung	chip
aufwendig	complicated design or decoration, difficult to make, intricate, lavish, costly
Ausführung	produced by, originally by
Ausgabe	(abbreviated Ausg.) Edition
Band	pewter strap
Bayern (bayerisch)	Bavaria (Bavarian)
Becher	beaker
Bekronung	finial
bemalt	painted
Bemalung	painted decoration
beschädigt	damaged
Bier	beer (Bierkrug is a beer stein)
Bildnis	portrait
Boden	bottom
Bodenbild	lithophane (picture in the bottom)
Bowle	also Wein Bowle , referring to a wine bowl (punch bowl)
Brauerei	brewery
Daumenheber	thumblift
Daumenrast	thumblift (literally, thumb rest)
Deckel	lid
Deckelheber	thumblift (this is unusual usage)
D.R.G.M.	Deutsches Reichs Gebrauchsmuster - German (State) Patent or protected prototype.
Einlage	inlay
Email (Emaille)	enamel (painted and fired oxides)

Emailfarbe	colored enamel
Entwurf (Entwerfer)	design (designer)
Fehlerstelle	defect, damage (chip, paint flake, etc.)
Figurenkrug	character stein
gebraucht	used, not new
gebrochen	broken
Gebrüder	(abbreviated Gebr.) brothers
geloetet	soldered
geritzt	etched (incised, scratched)
Gesellschaft	(abbreviated Ges.) Company
Gesetzlich geschützt	(abbreviated Ges. gesch.) protected by law, patented, copyrighted
Geschützt	protected (by law)
Glas	glass
G.m.b.H.	(Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung) company with limited liability (e.g., "Corp." in US, "Ltd." in England)
Haarriß	Hairline
handgemalt	hand painted (usually suggests that the stein was made post-World War II)
Henkel	handle
Hirsch	stag (springender Hirsch is a leaping stag)
Humpen	a large, cylindrical drinking vessel, typically of glass
Jahrhundert	century
Jugendstil	German art nouveau (after the German magazine, Jugend)
Kanne	pitcher or master stein
Keramik	ceramic
Korpus	body
Krug	stein, pitcher, jug, mug, tankard - any size
Kupfer	copper
leuchtend	shining, bright, luminous, vivid
Maß	one liter serving of beer
Maßkrug	a one-liter Krug
München	Munich
Musterschutz	registered patent, copyright, registered pattern
ohne	without (as ohne deckel)
Pokal	pokal (see the standard glossary)

Porzellan	porcelain
Rand	rim
Randabsplitterung	rim chip(s)
Reservistenkrug	reservist or regimental stein
restauriert	restored or repaired
Römer	römer or roemer (see the standard glossary)
salzglasiert (Salzglasur)	saltglazed (saltglaze)
Schankkrug	serving or master stein, also called a flagon
Scharnier	hinge
Seidel	a half-liter Krug
Spannungsriß	stress crack, usually tight
Sprung	crack
Standfuß	base ring
Steinzeug	stoneware
Turm	tower
Wandteller	decorative, hanging plate
Wandung	walls or sides (of the body)
Wappen	crest, coat of arms
zeigt	it shows
Zinn	pewter
Zinndeckel	pewter lid
Zunftkrug	guild or occupational stein