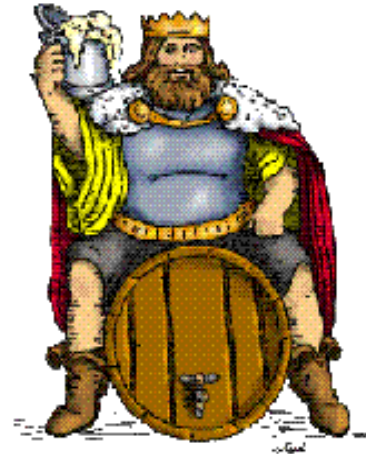


Gambrinus Gazette



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May 2024
Facebook: Gambrinus Stein Club

May Newsletter

President's Minute

Hello Gambrinus members,

Just a few quick notes. First, we would like to wish Bill Weinig a speedy recovery from his surgery and we hope to see him soon. He continues to recoup at home.

Our May meeting will be held at the Mission BBQ located at 19800 Century Blvd, Germantown MD 20874, on Saturday May 18th at 12pm (noon), until about 3pm. This is where we held the mini-convention dinner. Since we didn't have anyone volunteer to host the meeting we had to hold it at a restaurant and this one has a private room for us to eat and to hold the meeting. For the food, members will simply purchase what they want for lunch and we can eat together in the private room. This allows our members order what they want rather than us trying to put together a buffet with limited selection. Alan Fogel will be our speaker and he will be talking on some aspects of collecting Pewter steins/tankards, and other items. Alan is a noted authority on pewter with a real in-depth knowledge on the subject. He has written books and owns a great collection of pewter. The talk will begin about 1:00 PM, followed by anyone who brings a recently

purchased stein or to ask questions about a stein. At the meeting there will also be a display of wooden drinking vessels. There will be ample room for sale items.

For the meeting I will ask attendees just to send me a quick email to let me know your attendance. Email address is: Ericsalzano1@gmail.com

If you plan on attending the 2024 SCI Convention, it is being held on the first week in July in Madison Wisconsin. There is still time to register. If anybody has any questions about the convention, please let me know by email or give me a call. All information on the convention can be found on the SCI website or just click on this link: <https://stein-collectors.org/.../conv2024/2024Convention.pdf>

Also, plans are well under way for the 2025 Convention which will be held in Pittsburg Pa.

Hope to see everybody at the May meeting.

Prosit,

Eric Salzano

Treasurer's Report

2024 Starting balance	\$9,331.77
Expenses: January, February, and March 2024	(\$ 972.45)
Income: January, February, and March 2024	\$ 25.00
Balance as of 3/31/2024	\$8,384.32

DREIHAUSEN, GERMANY

1100-Present

By: Norman Paratore

This article was prompted by a mistaken identification of a stein by yours truly and the previous owner. The back story goes like this. I purchased a stein on eBay that was attributed as being a Westerwald piece and I accepted that identification without question because of its appearance. At the last Mini-Convention I held an open house. I noticed Ron Fox and Bernd Hoffman looking at it and overheard their conversation. Both agreed that it was a Dreihäusen, which led me to this research. I didn't even know how to spell Dreihäusen.

Turns out that Dreihäusen is a small town in Germany that is little known to most collectors yet they have produced stoneware steins and earthenware utilitarian pieces used in the daily life of the people from that area as early as the 1100s. Today Dreihäusen is a suburb of the Ebsdorfergrund and is located in the municipality of Marburg County, Upper Hesse.

About 1,500 inhabitants live in the village of Dreihäusen at the present time. In the early days the population varied from around 350 to 400. I have some interesting census data from centuries ago that not only gives the number of people but their vocations.

The village was first mentioned in the middle 1100s, as "Hausen". The name Dreihäusen appeared for first time in the Hessian State Manual of 1818. "Drei", in German, means three, and the city Dreihäusen consists of the three subdivisions: Oberhausen (upper), Mittelhausen (middle), and Unterhausen (lower). Located on the Zwerster Ohm River, is about six miles away from the old University town of Marburg, and about 55 miles North of Frankfurt and 64 miles East of Westerwald.

Due to the numerous potters active there in the 14th century, it came to be known as Eulershausen (Euler means potter). Dreihäusen was a pottery production center from the Middle Ages until 1925, when the last pottery closed its doors.

Archaeological finds attest to true stoneware in Oberhausen and Mittelhausen as early as the 1270s. Datable finds of proto-stoneware (near stoneware) go back to the year 1250. Therefore, together with Cologne and Siegburg, Dreihäusen lays claim to having produced the first stoneware in Europe. Stoneware filled almost all utilitarian needs into the 17th century.



Dreihausen stoneware experienced its artistic zenith around 1650 when the famous loop handled steins (Ringelkrüge) came into being during the Baroque period. Typical of these loop-handled steins are the many handles, rings, grooves, and the use of the rolled stamp, a surface decoration made by using a wheel with a pattern, called “coggle”. Since this form hardly ever occurs in other pottery places, it is regarded as a trademark feature of stoneware from Dreihausen. The pieces are mainly slender baluster shaped vessels, the shape reminiscent of an hourglass, but with rings incorporated in several loops. The loop-handles were strictly ornamental and sometimes as many as twelve loops in different sizes were attached to the vessel.

After 1850, competition from earthenware and enameled tin ware led to a drastic decline in the size and number of potteries. While some production continued on a considerably reduced scale, by the early 20th century the industry had essentially disappeared.

Dreihausen stoneware vessels are strongly represented in museums and collections, and they may be found occasionally on the art market. The oldest document mentioning potters in Hausen is dated 1374, but stoneware had already been produced long before that. Little is known about specific Dreihausen potters' but potters' names can still be found as family names in the village today. At that time there was constant quarrelling with tradesmen and potters from elsewhere, particularly those from Marburg.

The biggest competition for the Dreihausen potters, however, was from the Dreihausen potters themselves. Compared to the market potential, there were just too many potters in this small village. In 1629 the guild rules were tightened to prevent out-of-town potters from settling in the village; and it was ruled that only sons of Dreihausen potters could become apprentices. Between 20 and 30 potters worked continuously in the village over the centuries but many did not have their own kilns. After 1850 the competition from porcelain, earthenware, and baked enamelware, coupled with a decreasing supply of suitable clay, greatly impacted stoneware production. By 1900, there were only five potters left. The last workshop finally closed its doors in 1925.



A large ringed beaker, attributed to Dreihausen, reddish-brown, rim & base mounts, with two rings through two of the handles.

This piece is in the British Museum and was found in 1870. It is estimated to be from the 1600-1700 period.

Early on, stoneware and earthenware clays were available in great quantities near the village, sometimes even located side-by-side or above and below each other in the layers. Ample clay deposits were also found in neighboring villages, but they were mainly suitable for earthenware production. The clay lay deep beneath the earth and mining became increasingly difficult over the centuries.

Depending on the firing temperature, or the position in the kiln, the same clay could fire into different colors. The stoneware clay fired from a light gray to a light brown or even a light yellow in color. The bodies often bear great resemblance to pieces from the Rhineland and Westerwald. In order to make the surface appearance more consistent, the pieces were dipped into an iron-rich loam slip before firing, which resulted in the characteristic chocolate brown to violet or reddish brown color. The special clays used in the slip were dug from deposits between Oberhausen and Unterhausen and had to be mixed with more water than the clays for the body. The outside of the stoneware was covered either completely or only on the upper body with this typical dark slip. The interior was usually completely rinsed with a slip of the same kind. These slips, when fired, could be either matte or shiny. Although a salt glaze may be found on a few of the vessels, the potters of Dreihäusen almost always preferred the slip, whose function was strictly decorative.

The ring decorations may be understood as purely for fun, since the rings make a bright clanking sound at every movement. These rings were attached before firing and the potter had to take care that they did not bake onto the body. Otherwise, they would have been immovable and would not clank. Presumably, the basic shape came about at the end of the 14th or beginning of the 15th century. It reminds us a little of the funnel-necked beakers created in Siegburg around the 1350s, but differences between both forms are also evident. In Dreihäusen, the upper funnel part is larger, wider, and higher. Also, the narrowest part in the middle is not as small as in Siegburg.

Besides the decoratively arranged loops, there are several other decoration techniques. Frequently found on Dreihäusen stoneware are “grooves” or “rilling” resembling comb lines. The rills, incised or carved into the hard clay can be straight or wavy and are usually located in the upper half of the vessels. This fine structuring and dense rilling was only possible if the clay had been carefully prepared and worked. Some grooves were deepened into furrows, which could also contain pewter bands. Other grooves were decorated with carved ornaments or rolled stamps. In the 17th and 18th centuries the belly of the vessels was decorated with undulating leaf-shaped patterns. In the 19th century many patterns occurred, which were made with impressed stamps or punches. Relief or applied decoration is very rare in Dreihäusen and is usually found only from the 19th century on. On bowls or puzzle jugs, perforated walls have also been documented. Even richly decorated vessels were always characterized by clear lines and certain simplicity.



Baluster jug, probably from Dreihäusen, 1430-50 (salt-glazed stoneware). It is located in the State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia. Height: 28 cms.

Dreihäusen cylindrical steins and jugs stoneware production from circa 1730-1775, was comprised of containers, drinking vessels, and tableware. The attractively formed yet simple pear-shaped steins stem from around 1750 to 1850. At the end of the 19th century containers for storing food made up the lion's share of the production. The high, narrow shapes were mainly intended for milk or plum jam. Containers with handles could be used in many ways. These storage vessels may still be found today, not only in the Marburg area, but also all over Hesse and beyond. It is harder to find other types of everyday vessels, because their use made them more prone to breakage. Be that as it may, it is

the ornamental vessels, made for decoration and representational purposes that are the most interesting to the collector.

Dreihäusen stoneware differed from its Westerwald counterpart in that it was rarely salt-glazed. A few did appear on some pieces in the late 1800s. The Dreihäusen potters preferred to dip the already formed pieces into highly diluted loam slip of iron-rich clay that after firing formed this gorgeous shiny chocolate-brown surface.

It is very difficult to date Dreihäusen stoneware precisely as the potters retained the common forms over decades, even centuries, without significant changes.



This beautiful "Birnenkrug" or "pear-shaped stein" is the authors and was made in the early 1800s, around 1830-1840.

The stein is incised with the name "Rosina" on front - it was done when the clay was still wet before putting the slip. Apparently, it was done on a special order from a customer.



The lid is pewter, with the thumb lift in the form of a sitting young boy - Cupid or Putto - holding a beer stein in his hand. It reminds me of the pose of the sculpture "Thinker" by Auguste Rodin. The figural thumb lifts appeared in German beer stein production around 1820. However, this is a unique and a very unusual thumb lift. I'd like to speculate that the stein was made on a special order as a gift to a lady (Rosina) who just gave birth to a boy

Dates or inscriptions are only rarely found. However, the quality of the body does help us a little with the dating. In the 15th century the bodies show additions of very coarse sand. In fact, some items contain grains of sand or quartz as large as

peas. Though grains are still visible on their surfaces, vessels of the 16th and 17th centuries have finer grains. In the 18th and 19th centuries the clay was tempered with powder-fine sand, giving the pieces a smooth and homogeneous surface that could be decorated more easily.

Footnote: The research for this article was gathered from several internet sites and as much as possible, has been checked for accuracy. Many Posts on FaceBook, eBay, Google, etc., are so inaccurate that they are useless. Word to the wise – be careful!

Additional information was from the book "Early Stoneware Steins" written by Beatrix Adler and Les Paul. I consider that book as one of the most complete and accurate I have read. Beatrix Adler is a recognized expert in that field.

May Meeting

BIG NOTE: The meeting will be on Saturday the 18th.

We had to move the meeting date from the second weekend to the third weekend due to Mother's Day. This was learned the hard way when a meeting was inadvertently scheduled on Mother's Day and only five members showed up.

As Eric said in his minutes, the meeting place will be held at Mission BBQ in Germantown, the same place we held the dinner during the Mini-Convention last November. The times will be from Noon to 3:00 PM. Arrive as early as noon to socialize, checkout the menu, and eat. Lunch to be paid by each member. Below is the link to check out their menu.

If you haven't hosted a meeting in the past but would like to, please talk to Eric or me to learn the different hosting options available. Remember, the number of members attending our meetings have consistently been in the 10-15 range and not the 20+ that was our normal at one time.

Hope to see everyone there. Here is the link to the restaurant.

<https://mission-bbq.com/locations-and-menu/germantown-md/>

FINAL NOTE

A request from the editor. I am considering adding a "stein sales " column for members. This will not be for someone who has hundreds of steins for sale unless you want to sell them one or two at a time. I would need a couple of decent photos of the stein showing all sides, top, bottom, conditional description including age, manufacturer (if known), price (firm or negotiable), and a contact name and number. Is anyone interested?