

PITTSBURGH STEIN SOCIETY NEWS

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JUNE

SUMMER IS HERE !!!!

Next Stein Club Meeting

Our next meeting will be our Summer Meeting and will be on Saturday, June 24th. This meeting will be a "show-n-tell" meeting so please bring a stein or two to share with all of those in attendance. Every stein is interesting and every stein has a story to tell so let's hear about yours !!!

Lunch will be a sandwich buffet with the always reasonable price of \$7.00 for stein club members and \$10.00 for non-members of the stein club. Friends and guests are always welcomed.

Exact change will be greatly appreciated.



Happy Birthday Wishes



Happy Birthday To:

Rich Hoffman June 1
Jim Laffey June 2
Colleen Frayer June 5
Bart Stack June 11
Marcia Evens-Frank June 19
David Korczyk June 25

May your special day be filled with happiness and good health !!!

Featured Article of the Month

We thought it would be fun to go back twenty years and see what stein collectors were talking and writing about oh so many years ago. In the June 2003 issue of *Prosit* magazine, Ron Fox, and John Lamb (both now Master Steinologists) collaborated on an article titled "Steins by Friedrich van Hauten". This article tells us how the "large ceramic firms" supplemented their revenues and profit by supplying stein bodies to smaller decorating houses who in turn would decorate and finish the stein for sale to individuals and/or for special orders.

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In this interesting article of twenty years past, Ron and John clearly demonstrate their attention to detail, their ability to do extensive research, and their love of stein collecting. I would venture to say that not many stein collectors of today have ever heard of or know very much about the Friedrich van Hauten company of Bonn, Germany. As we read this month's featured article, we should keep in mind that even twenty-year-old information never seems old to true stein collectors.

Tip of the Month

This is an easy one but an important one to remember. You're looking at the bottom of a stein and you see the words, "MADE IN WEST GERMANY" or just "WEST GERMANY". What does this tell us? Well, since the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) was formed on May 23, 1949 and lasted until October 3, 1990, this tells us that this stein was made sometime between those two dates. After 1990 the term "MADE IN WEST GERMANY" disappears from steins all together. This won't give us the exact date of the

manufacture of the stein but at least we know it's between 1949 and 1990.

Polo Shirts for Sale

Our initial sale of PSS logoed polo shirts was a huge success. Of the original 31 shirts ordered, we sold 25 shirts. The remaining 6 shirts are available in the following sizes and quantities:

Men Sizes: one large; two extra-large; one double extra-large.

Lady's Sizes: one medium; one large.

Additional shirts and sizes are always available. Our minimum order requirement to our supplier is 6 shirts. Once we reach this minimum requirement, we can place an order for whatever is required. Turn-around time is about 7-10 days. Attached to this newsletter is an order form that can be completed and returned to this Editor. All proceeds from the sale of these polo shirts go to the PSS. If you haven't as yet purchased one of these beautiful logoed shirts, this is your opportunity to do so now. Thanks for your support of the PSS.

Name Badges

PSS name badges are still available. Just fill out the attached form and send it, along with a check, to our Treasurer, Joyce Hoffman, to the address shown on the form. A PSS name badge worn over a PSS polo shirt is as good as it can be !!! Thanks for your support of the PSS.

Steins by Friedrich van Huten

by Ron Fox and John Lamb

Introduction:

First, it is important to establish that all stein makers fall into one of two categories:

Those that: (1) had the ability to manufacture the body as well as create the finished surface decoration (2) purchased the body from another firm and only created the surface decoration. This is true regardless of the material used to make the body, ie. glass, ceramic, metal, wood, etc.

In the ceramic category of porcelain, earthenware and stoneware, the reason for purchasing bodies elsewhere was strictly economics.

If you wanted to become a stein maker and produce the bodies yourself, it would take considerable finances to get started. The building of a kiln and finding expert operators was a major obstacle in itself. If your new operation was not in the rich clay regions, the purchase and shipping costs of the clay would be much higher.

The developing of prototype bodies and making of plaster molds was also very expensive. These are just a few of the major operational expenses encountered before you have even established a market for yourself.

The large ceramic firms understood there was a need for blank bodies by small decorating houses, and they were all too happy to supply them. This allowed the little guy to enter that market without putting himself in extreme debt and having a much higher risk of failure.

The large firms, such as Mettlach, had hundreds of different steins to choose from. They had a product line and were not interested in taking special orders unless it was for many pieces. The small decorating firms were just the opposite. For example, a student could order a single stein with his school fraternal shield, and have anything else important to him added to the decoration. There would be several lids to choose from, which gave the buyer the ability to participate in the finished product.

The purpose of this article is to show how the firm of Friedr. van Huten of Bonn,



Figure 1.

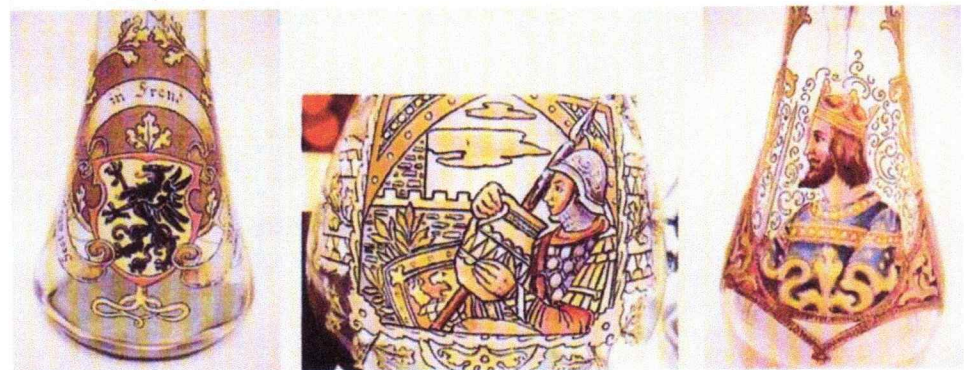


Figure 2.



Figure 3-A.

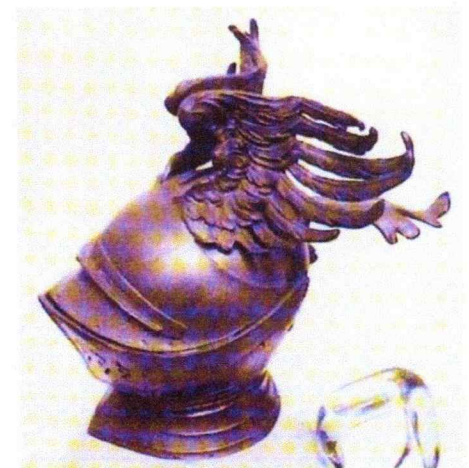


Figure 3-B.

Germany, worked within this framework and how to recognize its steins.

Bonn was founded in the 1st cent. AD as the Roman garrison of Castra Bonnensia. It was devastated by the Normans in the 9th cent, and later became the residence (1238-1794) of the electors of Cologne and the scene of the coronations of Frederick the Handsome (1314) and Charles IV (1346) as kings of the Romans. During the Palatinate Succession War (1689), Bonn was destroyed by Elector Frederick III of Brandenburg. It was rebuilt, largely in the baroque style. Bonn was occupied (1794) and later annexed (1798-1814) by France. In 1815, it passed to Prussia. In 1948-49, delegates from the parts of Germany occupied by France, Great Britain, and the United States met in Bonn and drafted a constitution for the Federal Republic of Germany. In 1949 Bonn was made West Germany's capital. It functioned as the provisional seat of government of Reunited Germany until 1999, when most of government moved to Berlin. Bonn is the seat of a famous university, whose main building formerly was the electoral palace (built 1697-1725).

About a dozen years ago we became attracted to the enameled glass steins that had elaborate pewter lids (see figure 1). They come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes but their enamel decoration has a distinct, recognizable style. The scenes are transfers, accented with thick handpainted enamel, giving it a noticeable quality. Very often they portray medieval knights and heraldic shields (see figure 2). In addition to their distinct enamel style, they are further embellished with elaborate pewter lids. These lids were designed with a medieval influence (see figures 3-A, 3-B & 3-C).

Knight's helmets, Griffin Lion finials, Gargoles, and horned helmets are just a few pewter designs from that era. Many



Figure 3-C.

times pewter relief was added to the neck area complementing the already busy decoration. It has been easy to separate this type of glass stein into its own category and until now we were not aware of the maker.

As we continued to collect these glass steins, we noticed the same decorations on Mettlach bodies. As you can see by the steins in figures 4-6, whoever decorated the glass steins also decorated the Mettlach bodies. Seeing this obvious connection, the search was on to find the firm who produced these steins. While viewing John's collection, which has several hundred hand-painted and print-over-glaze Mettlach steins, we came across about twenty-four marked by the firm of Friedr. van Hauten, Bonn, Germany. As it turns out this firm, at 31-32 Sterrstrasse, had a decorating and retail establishment. They were in operation from about 1890 to just before World War I. Bonn, being a large university town, brought much student association business. Custom orders were of great importance, as well as steins that targeted the souvenir market.

As mentioned in the introduction, stein makers can be separated into two different categories: firms that manufactured and decorated their bodies, and those that only decorated bodies that were produced elsewhere.

August Saeltzer, Hauber & Reuther, Martin Pauson, and Joseph Mayer, are just a few of the decorating firms that purchased their stein bodies elsewhere. The firm of Friedr. van Hauten worked in this same manner. Yet, on the paper label marks (6 & 7), the word *Hoflieferant* appears. The following definition was supplied by Art Maethner. The *Hoflieferant* was the purveyor of quality goods to the royal household. Any item with this designation would have to be considered a special item of unquestioned quality.

On the V & B bodies, each size and shape has a different impressed mold number on the base.

Here is a list of the different V&B mold numbers that van Hauten has used to decorate; 62, 63, 67, 280, 280 A-Z, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 385, 386, 403, 406, 2140, 2152, 2197, 2214, 2233, 2413. I was fortunate to find an undecorated Mettlach 2233, while viewing the collection of Helmut Kister, outside of Dayton, Ohio. As you can see from figure 7, it is void of decoration, which would have been completed by van Hauten or another decorating firm.

The glass bodies had as many, if not more, different shapes and sizes. Unfortunately, there are no markings to be



Figure 4. Exact scenes on both steins.



Figure 5. Exact scenes on both steins.



Figure 6. Similiar scene & verse on both steins.

able to distinguish between the body differences. The maker or makers of these glass bodies will remain a speculation unless company records are found. There were dozens of glass houses throughout Germany and Bohemia, and all had the ability to produce these bodies.

It is my belief, from years of handling glass, that most of these bodies were made by the glass firm of Theresienthal, from that same named town in Germany, located where the German, Austrian and Czech borders come together.

The van Houten firm used two standard lids on their normal 1/2 L. and 1 L. steins. As you can see in figures 8-A and 8-B, lids A and B were used on both glass and Mettlach bodies. When you see these lids, the chances are extremely high that it is a van Houten decoration. It is interesting to note, that lid A was the only lid used by another stein maker in Bonn, Germany, the firm of Royal Bonn. This is the only time we have seen this lid on another firm's steins, but interesting that they were from the same town.

Besides the V & B and glass bodies, examples of van Houten's work has been found on porcelain bodies, as well as the firm of Merkelbach and Wick bodies. It stands to reason that examples of other bodies will come to our attention. If you study the enamel style and the pewter lids used by this firm, you will be able to pick their work out, regardless of the body their work is on, or the lack of factory marks.

The Friedr. van Houten firm used many marks. For the purpose of future identification, we will put them into three categories. 1) Hand painted 2) Paper label 3) Stamp.

Hand-painted Marks

As we look at the marks figure, photos 1-5 are all versions of the firm's name, painted on by hand.

Photo 1. "V.H.&S" - van Houten & Son

Photo 2. "V.H & S Bonn" - van Houten & Son Bonn

Photo 3. "F.v.H.S.Bonn" - Friedr. van Houten & Son Bonn

Photo 4. "F.v.H. Bonn" - Friedr. van Houten Bonn

Photo 5. "F.van Houten Bonn" - Friedr. van Houten Bonn

Marks in photos 1-4 would have been very difficult to attribute to a maker without additional information.

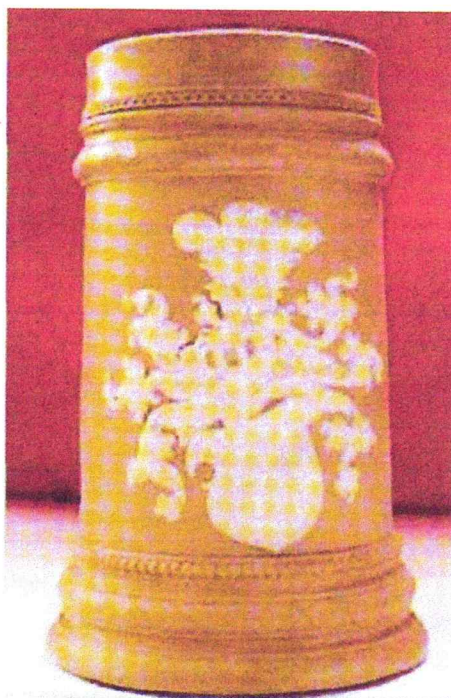


Figure 7.



Figure 8-A.



Figure 8-B.

Paper Label Marks

Photos 6 & 7 are printed labels that were glued to the bottom of the stein. This recognition was their hope for future business. A cheap way to advertise to the friends of the proud new owner.

The labels reads "Friedr. van Houten, Hoflieferant. Sterrstrasse 31-32, Bonn am Rhein" around the Prussian Eagle. We have found them in pink and green. With this label, other potential buyers could find their way to van Houten's shop.

Stamped Marks

Photos 8-12 show marks from reusable stamps, which could be applied quickly and gave a consistent appearance to the firm's name.

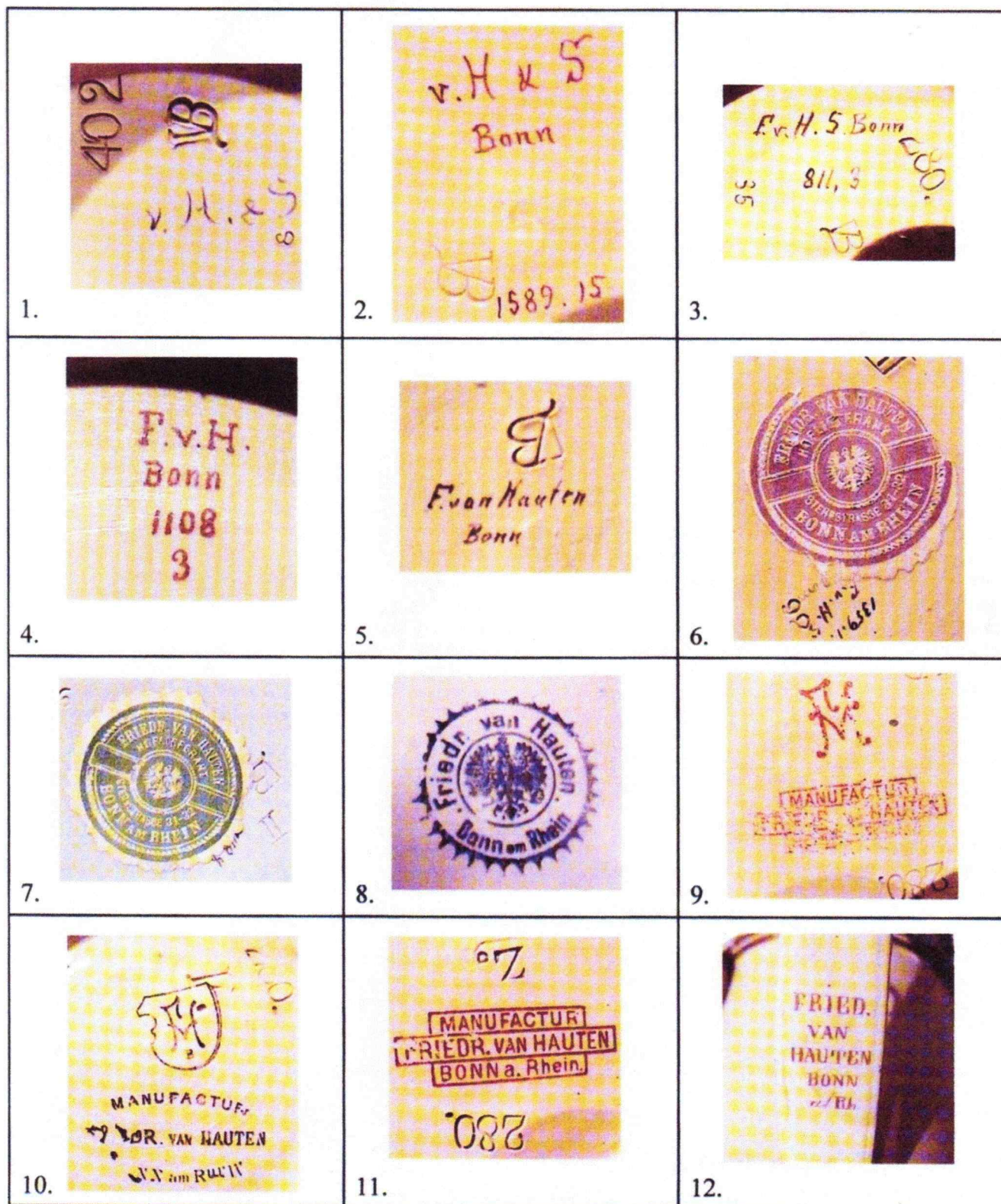
Photo 8 reads "Friedr. van Houten, Bonn am Rhein" around the Prussian Eagle with points coming from the outer circle. This mark is similar to the paper label found in photos 6 & 7, only the street address is missing.

Photo 9 features an intertwined "FVHB" and in photo 10 this same mark appears, but now within a shield.

Photo 11 shows "Manufactur Friedr. van Houten, Bonn a. Rhein" with the words encased in rectangular boxes. This mark also appears on photo 9 with the intertwined initials. Photo 10 shows this block lettered mark without the rectangular outline.

Photo 12 shows "Friedr. van Houten, Bonn a. Rh." in block letters; however, instead of it being placed on the base, it is found on the back of the handle.

It is obvious that there were many marks, and combination of marks, used by van Houten. With this information, collectors should be able to recognize them.



THE PITTSBURGH STEIN SOCIETY

POLO SHIRT ORDER FORM

Be one of the first to order an original Pittsburgh Stein Society, Port Authority® C-Free™, Cotton Blend Pique polo shirt. These shirts are short sleeved, 5.3 oz., 60% recycled cotton / 40% recycled polyester, honeycomb pique with tag-free label, flat knit collar, 3 button placket, and a drop tail hem.

Sizes available are Adult (Lady's and Men's): XS through 4XL.

All polos are black in color with a multi-colored, embroidered PSS logo on the left side of the chest.

Order your polo shirt(s) by filling out the order form below and sending the completed form to Tom Levenson at thomaslevenson@yahoo.com. or by calling Tom at 412-596-6360.

Checks should be made payable to the Pittsburgh Stein Society and sent to Tom Levenson, 295 Alamo Drive, Pittsburgh, Pa 15241 along with your completed order form.

The price of each shirt is \$30.00 for sizes XS - XL. Shipping costs are free of charge within the continental U.S.A. Add \$2.00 to listed price for each 2XL – 4XL size. All sales are final and are based on information shown below. All proceeds go to the "Pittsburgh Stein Society."

Thank you for your support of the "*Pittsburgh Stein Society*."

FIRST NAME _____

LAST NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP CODE _____

TOTAL QUANTITY ORDERED _____

MEN'S SIZE EACH _____

LADY'S SIZE EACH _____

BUYER'S SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

PITTSBURGH STEIN SOCIETY

"NAME BADGE ORDER FORM"

Please order _____ (indicate the number of badges you are ordering) *Pittsburgh Stein Society* name badge(s) complete with the following name(s):

Badge No.1: _____

Badge No.2: _____

I understand that each badge will cost \$3.00 and I agree to send a check, made payable to the *Pittsburgh Stein Society*, for the total amount of the number of badges purchased to Mrs. Joyce Hoffman, Treasurer, Pittsburgh Stein Society, 254 Victory Road, Saxonburg, PA 16056.

Thank You for your help in filling this order.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

**PITTSBURGH STEIN
SOCIETY**



(Name Here)