

# ***PITTSBURGH STEIN SOCIETY NEWS***

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Volume No. 8, Issue No. 8

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

August 2023



**IT'S AUGUST !!**  
**THE BEACH IS CALLING ME !!**

## Next Meeting Schedule

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, September 30, 2023. In addition to the 50/50 raffle, we will have a show-n-tell session, and, once again, a very nice lunch. Please bring in a stein or two to share with us all.



Do you know who is shown in the photo above? Which very beautiful and highly sought after stein depicts something shown in this photo?

## Happy Birthday Wishes



### **Happy Birthday To:**

Trudy Banks ..... August 5  
Steve Donohue ..... August 18  
Jeff Arduini ..... August 25

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

## Tip of the Month

If you are thinking of purchasing a Regimental Stein, DO YOUR HOME WORK FIRST. Regimental Steins are beautiful but very complicated. Each Regimental Stein is decorated in a motif symbolizing the soldier's branch of service and is personalized with his name, garrison town, military unit designation and his years of service, and much, much more. If a Regimental Stein has either a lithophane with a nude scene or a small bulge inside the curve of the handle, the stein is most likely a reproduction. This tip is excerpted from a brochure prepared under the guidance of R. Ron Heiligenstein, Master Steinologist.

Published Monthly by the Pittsburgh Stein  
Society

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President .....Tom Levenson  
Vice President ..... Bill Boss  
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### **News From SCI**

The 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of Stein Collectors International (SCI) was held in Dayton, Ohio on July 25 through July 29. The convention was a big success with 91 SCI members attending, 5 of which were Pittsburgh Stein Society members. A commercial auction conducted by Ron Fox Auctions took place on Wednesday afternoon, July 26th. A total of 510 lots were up for auction and many beautiful steins were purchased at reasonable prices. Three featured speakers and six round table speakers gave excellent presentations ranging from Miniature Steins to Feline Character Steins. All attendees had the opportunity to see, close-up, the wonderful stein collection of the late Roger Glass, a very successful Dayton businessman and long-time stein collector. Roger donated his stein collection to a Dayton museum located in the Carillon Historical Park. It is on permanent display for all to see and enjoy. Saturday night's reception and dinner concluded the 2023 SCI convention. All attendees agreed that this convention was one of the best ever held for members of Stein Collectors International.

### **Featured Article of the Month**

In keeping with the theme of this month's *Tip of the Month*, we offer two very interesting and informative articles on Regimental Beer Steins. The first article is written by Master Steinologist, R. Ron Heiligenstein and appeared in the December 1988 issue of Prosit magazine.

The second article is written by Master Steinologist, Peter Meinschmidt for Stein Collectors International and is dated November 1, 2018.

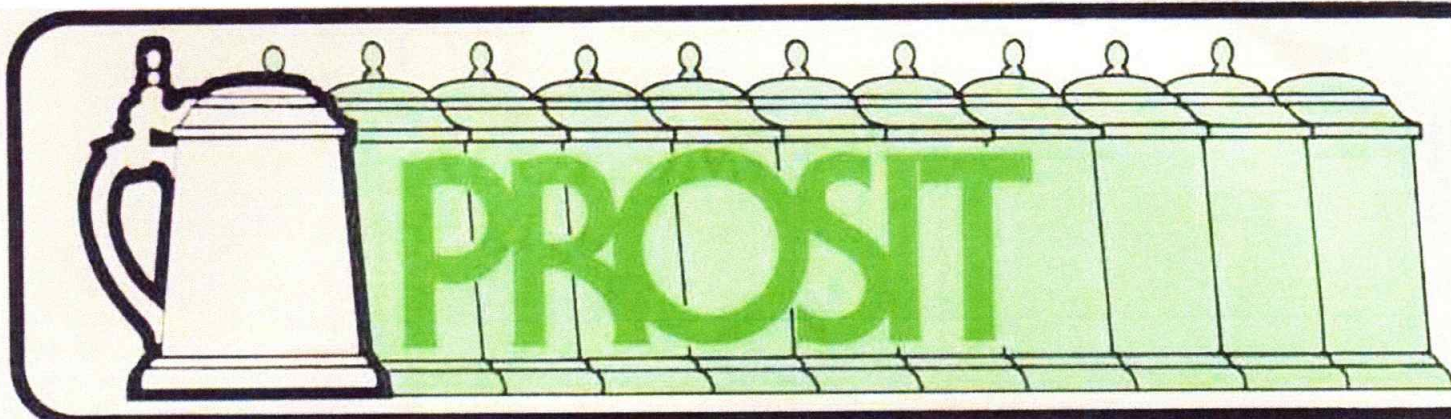
Both articles give the Regimental Stein collector insight into what to look for and how to identify these original works of art called Regimental Steins or Reservist Steins.

### **Did You Know**

Did you know that improper packaging for shipment is one of the ways that many, many steins get broken or damaged, none of which is anything that any stein collector would ever want to see happen.

Thanks to Walt Vogdes informative article titled, "*Wrapping and Packing Steins for Shipment*," we learn how to minimize damage to steins that are being shipped. Walt's article was written for Stein Collectors International and can be viewed online through the Reading Room of SCI's website. Thanks, Walt, for this very helpful and informative article.





No. 94

Stein Collectors International®

December 1988

## Understanding Regimental Beer Steins

by R. Ron Heiligenstein

[Note: This article is based on the illustrated lecture given by the author at SCI's Annual Meeting in St. Louis this summer.]

Collecting and understanding regimental beer steins need not be confusing. It just takes a little time and a little homework. Collecting regimentals entails the same fundamentals as collecting other types of steins, including: the scarcity of certain types, the appearance or eye appeal of a stein, the stein's condition and the history of a stein, assuming the stein indeed has a history.

There is another very important consideration in collecting regimentals that's not shared by all the specialty areas of stein collecting. Specifically, regimental beer steins can be easily cataloged. This is the single most important point I want to make: unless collectibles, including beer steins, can be cataloged, they are unlikely to ever have broad collector interest or a following.

It is the ability to catalog that makes collecting stamps, collecting coins and collecting regimental beer steins such fascinating hobbies. Indeed, filling-in the missing items from a list or a catalog is perhaps the most fascinating and compelling aspect of collecting anything of importance.

It's an easy task for regimental stein collectors to put together their own list by simply turning to the book on regimentals by John Harrell\*, a book you can buy from most stein



Fig. 1: Three steins to the 20th Bavarian Infantry Regiment; from left to right, 1902, 1908 and 1910. Note differences — and similarities.

dealers. You can then expand on the list you've taken from Harrell's book by reviewing all the units mentioned in the "Waldorf Astoria Cigarette Card Book". You can further broaden your list of German military units by reviewing "Ruhmeshalle Unserer Alten Armee", which translated means "Hall of Fame of Our Old Army". The *Cigarette Card Book* and the *Hall of Fame Book* show the existence of many army units not contained in Harrell's book. There is also a *Navy and Colonial Troops Cigarette Card Book*, which includes, among other things, a listing of all the ships of the Imperial German Navy.

When you have created your list of all the old military units to determine what is rare or at least what is scarce, you simply start by placing a check mark next to the unit name of every regimental stein in your collection, those you see in the stein auction catalogs, plus those you see at stein shows and in other people's collections. Soon it will become quite clear what is common, what is scarce and what is very rare. It's really quite a simple process.

What can you expect to find regarding the mix of regimentals? In other words, what was the total number of units in the German Army and what was the breakdown by infantry, cavalry, artillery, etc.? A close look at the numbers in the accompanying table

\* "Regimental Steins" by Maj. John L. Harrell (Ret.), Old Soldier Press, Maryland, 1979

(Cont'd, on page 1803)



will help you get a feeling for what is common and what is very rare! Obviously, a stein from a small, obscure or uncommon military unit could be considered "rare".

You may have read the series of eight articles I wrote about regimentals starting in the June 1985 issue of *Prosit*. At the outset of those articles, I defined "unusual" as those regimentals whose appearance is something other than what one normally expects of a stein from a particular unit.

be alert! You may be looking at something that is literally worth its weight in gold. Remember, if you can't find the unit designation of a regimental stein in Harrell's book, the stein is probably rare. If a stein has differing characteristics, for example if it is made of glass or if it is a character regimental or if it has a double screw-off lid, you know you have something unusual. If you have a stein incorporating several of these anomalous features, you may indeed have what we call "one of a kind".

### GERMAN ARMY UNITS

| Years<br>1899- 1900 |                           | Year<br>1914      |  |
|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|--|
| 48 %                | Infantry Regiments        | 40 %              |  |
| 22 %                | Cavalry Regiments         | 20 %              |  |
| 10 %                | Field Artillery Regiments | 18 %              |  |
| 5 %                 | Engineer Battalions       | 6 %               |  |
| 5 %                 | Supply Battalions         | 5 %               |  |
| 4 %                 | Rifle Battalions          | 3 %               |  |
| 4 %                 | Foot Artillery Regiments  | 4 %               |  |
| 1 %                 | Railway Battalions        | 1 - %             |  |
| 1 - %               | Telegraph Battalions      | 1 + %             |  |
| 0 + %               | Air Ship Battalions       | 1 %               |  |
| 0 %                 | Aviation Battalions       | 1 %               |  |
| 100 %               |                           | 100 %             |  |
| Total = 447 units   |                           | Total = 549 units |  |

Regimental steins from the same unit usually have certain similarities. But it is important to keep in mind that the similarity between regimentals from the same military unit diminishes as the time-spread between the dates on the steins increases. In other words, a stein dated 1910 should look somewhat similar to another stein from the same regiment dated 1908, while a stein from the very same unit dated 1902 probably will look less similar.

To determine what is unusual, as you catalog, simply record or mentally note the appearance of steins from specific military units. Soon you'll see a pattern develop, unit by unit, and you'll develop a distinct impression what a stein, for instance from the 20th Bavarian Infantry Regiment, should look like. Then, when you see a stein from the 20th Bavarian Infantry Regiment that *doesn't* fit the pattern you've established on paper or in your mind, you will know that you may be on to something unusual. This stein will then merit a much closer inspection and perhaps considerable additional research.

If you find a stein that is both rare and unusual, you may have what we call a "one of a kind". These "one of a kind" regimentals command prices of \$2,000 to \$3,000, and even \$6,000 to \$10,000 in a few cases. So

What is important to know about a particular regimental stein and where can you get the information? From the body of the stein you should be able to learn the original owner's name, the owner's unit designation, the town or the city where the unit was garrisoned and the dates the stein's owner served his country. You can also uncover any special duty the original owner might have had while in the service, plus get a good indication of his standing (social status) in civilian life. From the *Army Cigarette Card Book* and the *Hall of Fame Book* you can find the date the regiment was originally formed and the important battles the regiment participated in, throughout history. Also, from both *Cigarette Card Books* you can examine in detail some of the colorful uniforms worn by the reservists in many of the old army and navy units.

It is important to know that traditions were a big deal in the old German Army. Being a member of a unit made famous at some battle in the "War of Liberation", or in the "Franco-Prussian War", was like playing football for Ohio State or Michigan - you just wanted the world to know that you were part of a team with a winning tradition. This unit pride was not only important during a reservist's years of active military duty, it was also a real mark of distinction in his later

civilian life. Having a feel for the old army traditions is a very important part of really understanding regimental beer steins. Therefore any books you can read on the subject of the old army or navy will be most helpful in your understanding and appreciating regimentals.

While a stein's appearance is very important, as you might expect, among advanced collectors it may not be a critical consideration if the stein is rare or unusual or both. Naturally, if you can have it all - rare, unusual and an attractive appearance, you have a real prize. Those are the kind of steins I'm always looking for! Rarely, however, is a person that fortunate. Often, there are certain trade-offs that one makes. My only suggestion on the subject of appearance and condition is: don't pass up an unusual stein or a stein to a very rare unit just because it is not tall or it has a small spider in the lithophane or whatever. You will make a big mistake if you do! An unusual regimental or a stein from a rare unit, regardless of appearance or condition, could still be a very desirable piece to have.

While the question of what is attractive is usually a matter of personal taste, there are still a few areas of general agreement. For instance, a tall regimental stein is generally considered to be more desirable than a short one (they simply display better). A bright pewter lid is more desirable than a similar stein with a dark pewter lid. Large scenes are usually better than complex or crowded scenes. Porcelain, since it was originally much more expensive and difficult to produce, is considered by most to be more desirable than pottery or stoneware. Glass steins are unusual and therefore they are more difficult to acquire than ceramic regimental steins. Custom lids and finials are better than standard lids and finials, and steins with relief bodies are more sought



Fig. 2: Two glass steins. Left, Garde Telegraphen, the Kaiser's telegraph detachment. Right, Matrosen Artillerie Abteilung, a coastal artillery battery of a naval unit stationed at Kaichow, a German colony on the east coast of China.

after than steins with plain bodies.

Let me wrap up this article by shooting down some still popular misconceptions about regimental steins:

1. All old regimentals have straight sides. Most — not all; some do have tapered sides.
2. Regimentals were presented to reservists. Wrong! The reservists purchased the steins themselves.
3. All the reservists ordered steins. Only 10% to 20% did.
4. Regimentals were produced in limited quantities. Also wrong. With about 250,000 army recruits a year, and my belief that 10% to 20% of the reservists actually did purchase regimental steins, one might assume that perhaps 1,000,000 regimentals (give or take 100,000) were

sold during the twenty-five year period of their greatest popularity.

5. Mettlach military steins are also regimental steins. Only a few. Most are *military* steins, not regimentals.

The photographs accompanying this article are ones that, for one reason or other, were not included in the eight *Prosit* articles, 1985-1987. The captions accompanying the photos indicate why the steins are rare or unusual — or both.

Please especially note the stein on the far right of fig. 4, the one with the single bullet finial. It is most fitting that I conclude with this stein, my very first regimental. That stein is both rare and unusual, a "one of a kind", that my mother bought for me many years ago. She gave me this stein when I was a young student in college, obviously thinking it was essential to my education. One evening, when inspecting the underside more closely, I found a price sticker indicating that she had paid \$2.75 for the stein. Not too shabby for a "one of a kind". I think my mother had a very good eye for value ...



Fig. 3: An Austrian regimental, 1st Austrian Infantry Regiment — Innsbruck, the "Kaiser Jäger" or Austrian Alpine Regiment.



Fig. 4: Three baker's steins. Left, a stein with scenes of a garrison bakery. Middle, a tall baker's double unit stein with a very unusual lid resembling stacked bullets. Right, a baker's stein with just three names on the roster and a single bullet finial (yes, it is original) which is most unusual. I have never seen another like it.



# Stein Collectors International

## Some General Remarks about Imperial German Regimental Beer Steins

Including Geographic and Organizational Details

By Peter Meinlschmidt  
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November 1, 2018



When we look at or collect this type of beer stein, we must keep in mind that they are dating from the era of the German Empire which existed from 1871 to 28 Nov 1918. The Empire came into being in the wake of the victorious Franco-Prussian War of 1870/71, when Prussian King Wilhelm I was proclaimed German Emperor (or Kaiser) on 18 Jan 1871 in the Hall of Mirrors of the Castle of Versailles in Paris, France, while still retaining his function and title as ruling king of Prussia.

Germany was then reorganized into an "Empire", i.e. a union of federal states, comprised of four kingdoms (Prussia, Bavaria, Wurttemberg and Saxony), 6 Grand-Duchies (Baden, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Saxony-Weimar and Oldenburg), 5 Duchies, 7 Principalities, 3 Free and Hanseatic Towns, plus the newly acceded "imperial lands" of Alsace and Lorraine, which had been reclaimed from France. While the rulers of the existing federal states were retained, a governor was appointed in Alsace-Lorraine. Wikipedia contains an excellent article about the ["Unification of Germany."](#)

In the military domain, all the federal states eventually concluded so-called "military conventions" with Prussia (the largest of the kingdoms) which meant that they incorporated their military forces into the Prussian Army (introducing the Prussian numbering system for military units) and adopted the Prussian uniform and military regulations. The only liberty permitted was that these federal states could retain some of their traditional military insignia that would distinguish them from others. This is why we find Saxon, Wurttemberg, Baden or Hessian heraldic front plates on the spiked helmets, belt buckles, etc.

The only big exception from the aforementioned was the Kingdom of Bavaria, which was not only allowed to retain her own light blue uniform color for her infantry units (left), instead of dark blue for the Prussian units (right), but also to use a different numbering system for her military units, i.e. with the ordinal number preceding the unit designation. For example, the 17th Infantry Regiment would be a Bavarian unit, while Infantry Regiment No. 17 would be a Prussian one. Thus, the Imperial German Army was made up of two entities, i.e. the Prussian Army (which included in her ranks the military forces of all federal states except Bavaria and had subjected them to its specific numbering system) and the much smaller Royal Bavarian Army (which used a numbering system of her own). Also, Bavaria would appoint her own officers and would subordinate her military forces to the German Kaiser's overall command only in the event of a war.





As a point of interest, it is to be noted that Bavaria only introduced the Prussian style spiked helmet after King Ludwig II's death, i.e. as late as 1886, to replace their "Raupenhelme" or "caterpillar helmets". We see this history in the scene at right, showing the Raupenhelm in use from 1854 to 1872, and the Pickelhaub in use by 1886.



When the Prussian King and later Kaiser Wilhelm I (who lived from 1861 to 1888) died on 9 March 1888, he was succeeded by his son Kaiser Friedrich III, whose short-time reign only lasted 3 months, i.e. from 9 March to 15 June 1888. He then was succeeded by Friedrich's son Wilhelm who acceded to the throne as Kaiser Wilhelm II and who would rule Germany from 15 June 1888 until the end of WW1 (The year 1888 thus became known as the "year of the three emperors.")

The situation was again a bit different in Bavaria, as - after the death of King Ludwig II on 13 June 1886 - his brother King Otto I was unable to ascend to the throne due to a mental illness and was replaced by "Prince-Regent" Luitpold, who ruled from 10 Jun to 12 Dec 1912. After the latter's death, he was succeeded by his son King Ludwig III who would rule Bavaria until the end of WW1.

When we now look at the German Empire's surface area, which was once 208,881,000 square miles, it was reduced in size two times, first in 1919 (after WW1) and again in 1945 (after WW2). The surface area of West Germany (1945 - 1990) was less than half, i.e. 46 percent of that of the former German Empire, and that of East Germany only accounted for 19 percent. This means that after the German reunification (as of 3 October 1990) present-day Germany only occupies a total of 65 percent of the surface area of the former German Empire.

This, in turn, implies that about one third of the former garrison towns are today situated beyond the German frontiers, i.e. in countries, such as Lithuania, the Russian Federation, Poland, Denmark and France, with their names having been changed completely.

A last aspect we should take into account is the fact that many people use the 1914 organizational status of the Imperial German Army, i.e. the last peacetime status, as a reference. This is completely wrong. When we talk about the Imperial German Army, we look at the 1871 thru 1914 period, a span of 43 years, during which countless changes have occurred within the German Army. In the process, regimental stein collectors should look at the period 1890 to 1914, respectively. The aforementioned changes relate to name changes of units, changes in garrison towns, changes in uniform details, conferred awards and distinctions etc.

To cite a few examples:

The Dragoon Regiment no. 3 named "Neumärkisches Dragoner-Regiment Nr. 3" in 1861, changed its name to "Dragoner-Regiment Freiherr von Derfflinger (Neumärkisches) Nr. 3" as of 27 Jan 1889 and was finally renamed on 22 March 1897 "Grenadier-Regiment zu Pferde Freiherr von Derfflinger (Neumärkisches) Nr. 3".

Hussar Regiment König Humbert von Italien (1.Kurhessisches) Nr. 13 was transferred for disciplinary reasons from Mainz to Diedenhofen as of 1 July 1905. The reason was that during the Carnival or Mardi Gras parade some members of the Hussar regiment rode on floats with scantily dressed young ladies and this sparked some citizen protest. Kaiser Wilhelm II then ordered the unit's relocation during which the Hussar Regiment changed garrison towns with Dragoon Regiment No. 6.

An unusual case was the Hohenzollern Foot Artillery Regiment No. 13, which was initially named "Royal Württemberg Foot Artillery Battalion No. 13" in 1873 and even changed its state affiliation from Württemberg to Prussian becoming the "Royal Prussian Foot Artillery Battalion No. 13" as of 1 Oct 1893. After a 2nd battalion

had been attached in 1901, it was finally renamed "Hohenzollernisches Fussartillerie-Regiment Nr. 13" as of 27 Jan 1902. (Note: "Hohenzollern" was the German emperor's dynasty.)

The 15th Royal Bavarian Infantry Regiment whose honorary title always reflected that of the ruling Saxon King, had its name changed no less than six times, retaining as its last name (from 1905 to 1918) the designation "15. Infanterie-Regiment König Friedrich August von Sachsen".

Besides that, the Grandducal Mecklenburg Grenadier Regiment No. 89 was the only unit of the Prussian Army in which two different uniforms were worn within one regiment. While the 1st and 3rd battalions of this regiment wore the insignia of the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, the 2nd battalion (i.e. 5th thru 8th company) would wear the uniform and insignia of the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg-Strelitz.

In summary, collecting Imperial German militaria is all the more interesting and exciting, if their historical background and context are a bit better understood.

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## ~ Wrapping and Packing Steins for Shipment ~

by Walt Vogdes



When sending a stein by mail or with a shipping service like UPS or FedEx, you need to wrap it carefully to prevent damage. This article discusses various aspects of shipping steins, and gives a pictorial guide for one technique. Here are some important points to keep in mind:

- always place your name, telephone number or email address inside the stein
- the stein must be securely packed inside the box to prevent shifting in transit
- the lid must not have a chance to twist or bang against the rim of the stein
- the thumblift must be protected from being bent or broken
- when shipping multiple items, they must be protected from each other (!)
- light-weight Styrofoam peanuts or foam boards are excellent packing materials (crumpled newspaper is also good, as long as it is protected from getting wet)
- packing material should be firmly packed around the stein - leave no wiggle room!
- box-in-a-box packaging is much more secure than relying on a single box
- ensure that there is at least one inch of packing material between the outer box and its contents (preferably two inches)
- don't reuse a box which has been weakened by previous damage
- tape the box edges and openings from corner to corner, and side to side (this is quite strong, and also protects against water entering the package)
- always put your return address on the outside of the package
- mark the box as "Fragile" on all sides

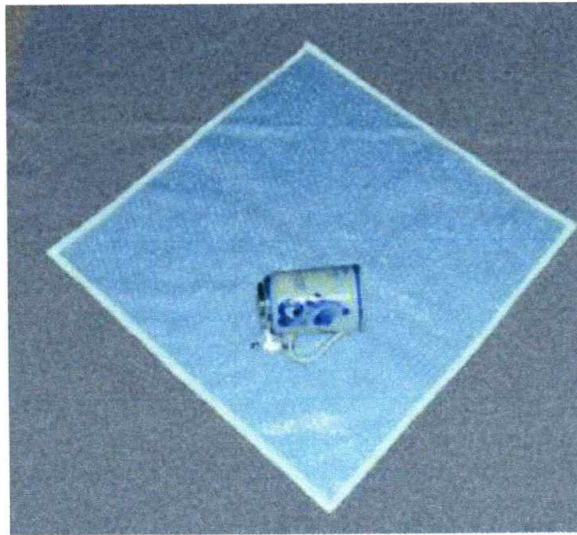
The following topics are discussed individually (click to jump to the topic, or just keep reading the article):

- [Wrapping](#) each stein to provide the basic protection and secure the lid
- [Packing](#) the stein in a box
- [Box-in-a-box](#) packing - the best way!
- [Shipping multiple steins](#)

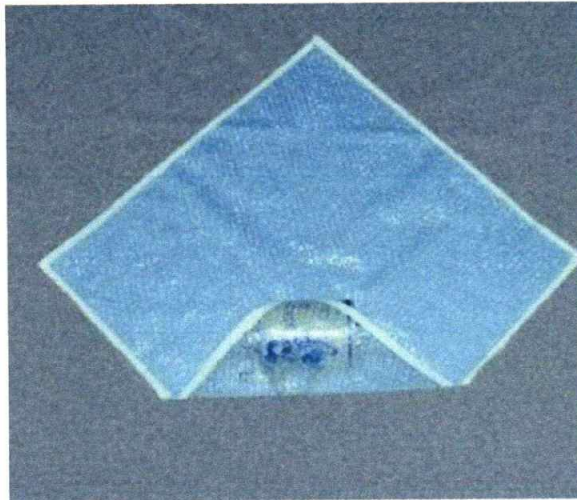
### Wrapping:

Before beginning to wrap a stein, some people add a thin piece of foam or other padding between the lid and the upper rim, but keep it thin so that the padding itself does not create an opportunity for the lid to be bent if it is pressed firmly against the stein. Another technique that is sometimes used (but not generally recommended) is to secure the lid to the body with masking tape. The problem with this is that sometimes paint will come off when the tape is removed! The technique shown below uses the wrap itself to secure the lid, no tape or other restraint is needed. Also, don't bother with Styrofoam peanuts or other padding inside the stein. When the stein is wrapped, those peanuts provide no value whatsoever.

The first step in preparing a stein for shipment is to wrap the stein itself in some sort of padding. Here I used a 24" by 24" piece of 1/4" bubblewrap, a size which works quite well for half-liter steins. (I taped the sides of the bubblewrap simply to make the photos clearer.) Place the bubblewrap flat on a table or on the floor, with the stein off-center and the handle facing toward one corner of the wrap. The rest of the process is just the same as a butcher wrapping a steak!



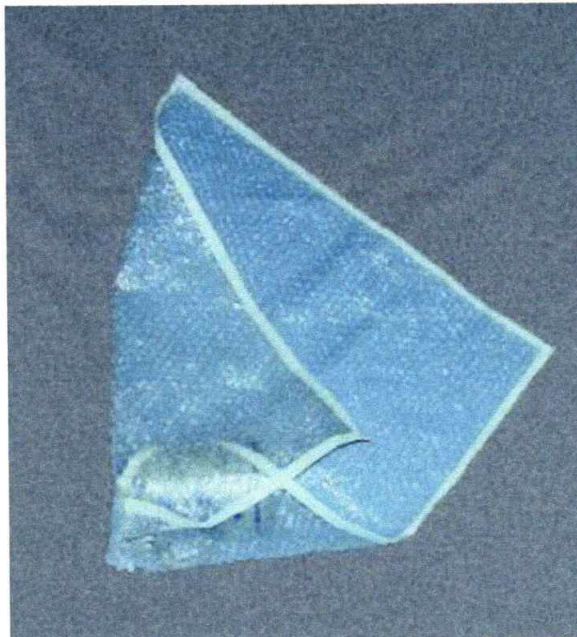
Wrap the corner of the bubblewrap over the body of the stein so that it meets the bubblewrap on the other side. You may have to re-position the stein in order to get this adjusted to your liking.



Now tuck the bubblewrap against the lid of the stein, and fold the left corner of the bubblewrap over the body as shown at right. Adjust the angle so that the folded left side of the bubblewrap is approximately at the angle shown.

This step has the important feature of securing the lid of the stein to the body so it won't bang around during shipping.

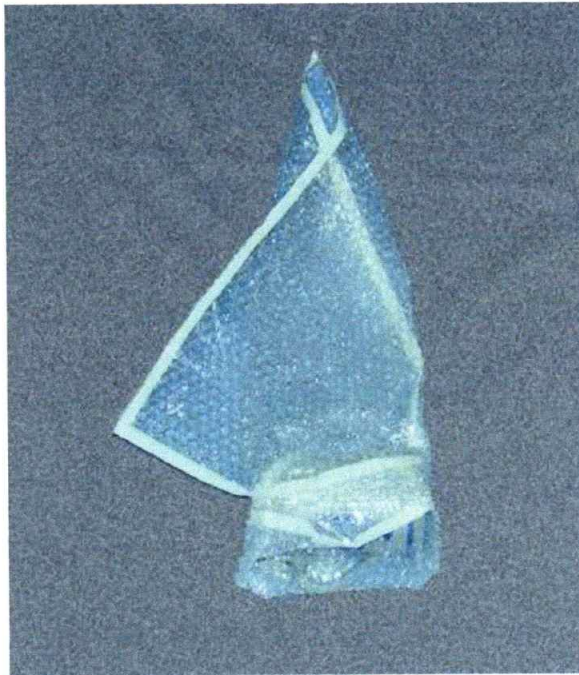
Note that the stein itself is still in the same place and same position as when we started.





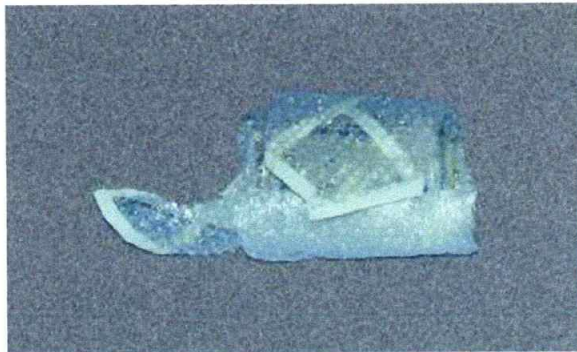
Now tuck the bubblewrap against the base of the stein as you fold it over the stein from the right side.

Again note that the stein is in the same place and same orientation. It now has bubblewrap across the lid and base as well as all around the body.



Finally, roll the stein away from you (toward the top of the illustration above), wrapping the bubblewrap around the body as you do so.

In this illustration the stein has been rolled once, placing the handle at the top of the photo, with the remaining tail of bubblewrap pulled forward and ready to be secured with a single piece of tape. The "tail" of bubblewrap appearing to the left in this photo can be used to provide additional cushion for the thumblift.



The "wrap" above may be all that is needed if you are simply packing steins away for storage, or are transporting them yourself to a chapter meeting. But if you plan to ship them, this is only the first step. [\[return\]](#)

### **Packing in the box:**

Steins which are loosely packed and allowed to shift during shipping are likely to be damaged (and it is the fault of the packer, not the shipper!). Steins without sufficient padding between the contents and the outer box are also likely to be damaged. These are the two most critical factors in packing your steins.

Be sure to select a large enough box to allow at least one inch of packing material between the wrapped stein and the top, bottom and sides of the box. This is critical! This packing is what will protect your stein if (when) the box is dropped or hit by something else. Be sure that there is sufficient space for packing above the tip of the thumblift, as this is particularly vulnerable.

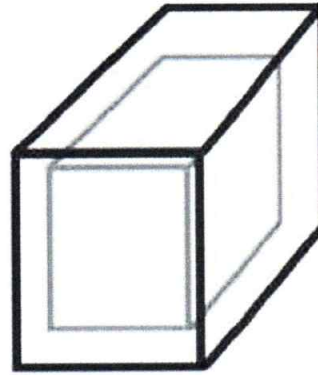
Stuff the packing material around the wrapped stein tightly - not so tightly that the sides of the box bulge out, but tightly enough to be absolutely certain that the wrapped stein will not be able to shift around inside the box during shipping. Styrofoam peanuts between the lid of the wrapped stein and the box will provide cushioning for the thumblift.

If you are shipping a stein and a detached lid, wrap them both separately and pack them in a way that there is sufficient packing material between them that they will not touch each other if jostled during shipping.

Tape the box lid tightly. If it bulges too much, remove a little bit of packing material. Shake the box to satisfy yourself that it is tightly packed. [\[return\]](#)

**Box-in-a-box:**

The technique of packing one box inside another offers far greater protection than relying on a single box, *as long as there is sufficient space and packing material between the boxes!* This not only ensures that there is more packing around your stein(s), but the flat sides of the inner and outer boxes spread any impact over a wider surface, lessening the likelihood of damage. The biggest objection to using box-in-a-box is probably the large size of the outer box, but the added protection makes it well worthwhile. (My local post office will not insure a fragile shipment unless it is packed box-in-a-box.) [\[return\]](#)

**Shipping multiple steins:**

Why send one when you can send two or more? It's certainly cost-effective to combine shipment of multiple items in one package, but you need to be careful about the packaging. The most secure way is to use the box-in-a-box technique, where each item is in a separate inner box. When you do this, be sure to place padding between the boxes, so one does not damage the other during transit. The biggest disadvantage to this is that multiple inner boxes quickly demand a HUGE outer box. When faced with this problem, you can pack multiple pieces into a single (large) inner box, being careful to ensure that they are padded from each other (and from the sides of the box) with tightly stuffed packing material. This may be easiest to do if the wrapped steins are placed in the inner box in an upright position, adjusted for best spacing, and then Styrofoam peanuts stuffed firmly between them. Adjust the amount of padding on top of the steins so that the lid of the box is tight, but not bulging, when closed. [\[return\]](#)

**Conclusion:**

No matter how well you prepare your steins for shipping, if the package falls off the back of the truck on an Interstate highway and it is hit by a gasoline tanker, it's going to be a write-off. Thankfully this is VERY uncommon. All you can realistically do is pack your steins so that they will survive the normal bumps and bruises of shipping, plus a margin of error for the occasion when they receive some extra rough handling. If you follow the suggestions in this article, your steins should be delivered safely.