



Die Golden Gate Zecher

Nachrichten

A Newsletter for Northern
California and Nevada
Stein Collectors

May
2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello Zechers,

Our March meeting at Les and TuC's home offered something for everyone – two speakers, a fabulous collection, stein sales, and Gemütlichkeit! Zecher members are very fortunate to have two Master Steinologists in our chapter, and we had the pleasure of having both talk at the meeting. Les Paul spoke on Miniature Steins which gave us a preview of the round table presentation he will be doing at the SCI Convention in July. Ron Fox gave a presentation on steins that he brought along from his own personal collection. We acquired more knowledge of steins and welcomed our newest Zecher member, Jeff Ruda who even brought along a few steins to show. A big Thank You to Les and TuC for hosting and for their hospitality! It's always a pleasure to see Les's "House of Steins."

Our June 10th meeting will now be held at Ralph Wege's home in the town of Seaside in beautiful Monterey County (Bob and Lin's home is being repaired from storm damage). Jim Rutter will speaking on **"The Sound of Suds: A Time-Honored Tradition of Steins & Beer-Drinking LP Album Covers."**

If you have not yet joined Stein Collectors International (SCI), please consider doing so. Not only are there the wonderful SCI conventions to attend, you can also research steins on the SCI website and receive the quarterly Prosit magazine with articles on steins and much, much more. The cost of an SCI membership with Prosit in digital form (eProsit) is only \$25 a year. Membership cost with Prosit in paper form mailed to your home is \$45 per year. **Sign up for SCI here stein-collectors.org/prosit2/** **We also highly recommend attending the SCI Convention in Ohio!** The fun starts with early-bird activities on July 25 followed by a fantastic beer stein auction by Fox Auctions on July 26. The convention officially starts on July 27 and ends on July 29. **Register here: stein-collectors.org/conventions/**

It is with a heavy heart to share that Master Steinologist Terry Hill, from Southern California's Erste Gruppe chapter, passed away on May 20, a day after entering hospice care. On that same day, Bob and Lin Bebermeyer and Bill and Rhoda Fry attended the Pacific Stein Sammler club meeting at Bernd and Christy Hoffman's home in Ridgefield, Washington where members tearfully recounted their fond memories. Above is a photo of me with Terry and his wife Claire at their 50th annual Oktoberfest meeting in Ojai.

See you all in Seaside on June 10th and at convention in July.

Julie Hughes President, DGGZ

June 10 Meeting at Ralph Wege's in Seaside

Please mail check for \$25 per person to:
Ralph Wege
1996 Luxton Street
Seaside, CA 93955
If you're lost, call Ralph (831) 236-5457

Approximate Meeting Schedule

11:30 AM Board Meeting
12:30 PM Snacks / Social / Stein Sales
1:30 PM General Meeting
2:00 PM Presentation
3:00 PM Dinner

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2023 Meeting Schedule

June 10, 2023

Time 1PM

Ralph Wege's home

1996 Luxton Street, Seaside, CA 93955

Speaker: Jim Rutter

Topic: Beer Steins on LP Records & Marketing

July 25—29, 2023

Stein Collectors International Convention

Dayton, Ohio

Saturday September 16

Time 1PM

Fall Oktoberfest Meeting

Dick & Julie Hughes' Home

1532 Desvio Way, Belmont, CA

Speaker: TBD

December 2023

Date TBD

11AM to 4PM (Must exit by 4PM!)

Back by Popular Demand

Speisekammer Restaurant

2424 Lincoln Avenue, Alameda, CA

The **Pacific Coast Stein Sammler** Chapter has these upcoming meetings in Washington State:

September 10: Richland

December 9: Gig Harbor

For more information, email the Pacific Stein Sammler Club contact:

pacificsteindkn@gmail.com

June Speaker Jim Rutter

by Rhoda Fry

Club-member Jim Rutter came up with a unique topic for our June meeting, **"The Sound of Suds: A Time-Honored Tradition of Steins & Beer-Drinking LP Album Covers."** Jim has many collecting interests including vinyl LP records, about 50 of which are Oktoberfest music. So it is no surprise that German beer steins are featured on LP cover art. Jim will review the use of beer steins in cultural marketing and the creation of a sense of Gemütlichkeit!



March Meeting Photos



Dick and Bob dress up!



Aurel, Lin, Scott, Nancy



Bill and Ron



Two of the many unusual steins that Ron brought for his presentation

Please send articles
& photos to Rhoda
fryhouse@earthlink.net

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Die Golden Gate Zecher 2022 Officers and Board of Directors

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Die Golden Gate Zecher Beer Stein Club on Facebook

facebook.com/DieGoldenGateZecher/

June 10 Meeting at Ralph Wege's in Seaside by Bob Bebermeyer

Club member Ralph Wege welcomes all Zechers and friends of Zechers to his home in Seaside. His address is on the front cover. Ralph is a fairly new collector and is proud of his Mettlach pretzel stein. Ralph, a retired USAF Colonel, is moving toward steins with a military theme.



To add to the fun, you're encouraged to wear traditional German attire and bring a favorite mug or stein or wine glass to fill.

Ralph has really stepped up to the plate to host since Bob and Lin Bebermeyer's house was crushed by a pine tree.

The Monterey Peninsula should be beautiful in June and Ralph is looking forward to seeing you.

Photo of Mettlach Pretzel Stein #2388 courtesy Fox Auctions

"Die Golden Gate Zecher Nachrichten" is published four times a year for the benefit of our members. **Die Golden Gate Zecher**, an affiliate of **Stein Collectors International**, covers the Northern California and Nevada areas. We welcome contributions of articles, illustrations and photographs, letters of suggestion or encouragement, or general interest items from the membership. Material submitted to this newsletter originally appearing in another publication other than SCI must be accompanied by written permission to reprint. **Permission to reproduce material from this newsletter is granted to SCI or affiliate chapters, providing full attribution to this newsletter is given.** Zecher newsletter articles in native format will be provided upon request for the publication in SCI chapter's newsletters.

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Why do we Collect? by Bob Bebermeyer



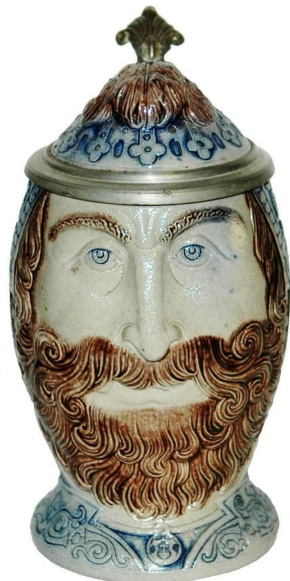
We at times ask ourselves "Why do we collect? Our member and Master Steinologist Ron Fox once said: "Every stein tells a story, and they all speak to me."

As Ahmir Thompson in his New York Times article dated March 25, 2022, so aptly stated: "There's a personal question that I ask all the time, too. Am I only the sum of all the things

that I have collected? And if so, shouldn't I declare it proudly?" He went on to say, "These projects remind me that legacy matters ... It gives me hope for a future with the confidence to hold the past—to protect it and preserve it, to explain it and elevate it, to keep its light shining brightly even as it drifts out into the sea of time."

Somewhere along the way our steins went from being the possessions of a collector to a collection. Perhaps, they tell us that the past matters in some way and is a reflection and a recordation of history that, at least to us stein collectors, seems important.

The steins somehow give us a comfort level that reflects the idea that the steins are not just seen but understood and not just possessed but "inhabited." We must explain this concept to our friends who say, **"You collect what?"**



Photos Fox Auctions: Thewalt #175, Dümler & Breiden #46

Board Meeting Minutes March 11, 2023

Meeting called to order at 1:45 P.M. by President Julie Hughes. Present: President Julie Hughes, VP Bob Bebermeyer, Treasurer Dick Hughes, Newsletter Editor Rhoda Fry, Board Member Nancy Morris, Club Contact Les Paul, Linda Bebermeyer, Acting Secretary (for Vicki)

President Julie Hughes and board thanked Les and TuC for hosting the meeting in their home. Julie announced that the September 16 meeting will be at her and Dick's house. Julie asked for program ideas such as speaker, show-and-tell, or auction. Rhoda was emphatic about needing a speaker at each meeting. The Board discussed having Lyn Ayers speak at the September meeting.

Treasurer Dick Hughes announced that club income for 2022 was \$522 coming from new members and the member's auction. We now have 48 paid members. In order to generate more income, a motion was passed to open a CD for a portion of the club's funds.

Minutes of the September 17 2022, meeting that were published in the February 2023 newsletter, were approved.

Every year Stein Collectors International (SCI) verifies that chapters have at least 12 members in order to be officially recognized. 19 of our members are SCI members. Some of our members have other chapters as their primary chapter, so they're not included in our count of 19.

President Julie welcomed guest Jeff Ruda, who Rhoda met at the San Francisco Ceramics Circle.

Les announced that our scheduled speaker, Bill Gee, was unable to attend due to illness.

As always, Newsletter editor Rhoda asked for more articles from our members for the newsletter. She also suggested a Zeher member's opt-in directory and volunteered to chair the project.

President Julie brought in an issue of Antique Trader magazine that has an article about beer steins by an SCI member.

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A Mettlach Vase Inspired by the Portland Vase by Rhoda Fry

The Portland Vase in London's British Museum (Figure 1) is a famous Roman cameo glass vase that dates from around 15 BC—25 AD. Beginning in the late 18th century to the present day, the vase has been widely copied in a variety of forms. The original vase and even its copies are the subject of books and scholarly journals. A future exhibit at the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento will explore the vase's impact on art and society. Mettlach vase #7011 (Figure 2), which has a similar shape to the Portland Vase, will be in the exhibit thanks to a loan from the Bob and Colette Wilson gift to the American Museum of Ceramic Art (AMOCA).



Figure 1. Portland Vase



Figure 2. Villeroy & Boch Mettlach Vase #7011 made in 1898



Figure 3. Greek Amphora

The original Portland Vase is a glass amphora in translucent dark cobalt blue and white cameo glass. The white glass decoration was made by dipping the blue body into white molten glass and carving the new outer layer into the relief decoration.

The vase owes its unusual squat shape to having had its base broken and shortened, perhaps in antiquity. Its new base might be contemporaneous, although it is definitely not original. The vase would have had the traditional amphora shape with a foot (Figure 3). The vase became so well-known, that the term Portland Vase, refers to any squat amphora.

The vase's cameo decoration is so remarkable and took so long to make, that it is not surprising that the vase was repaired. For example, in the 1870s, John Northwood spent three years making a glass replica. It too broke and was repaired; nevertheless it drew wide acclaim at the 1878 Paris Exposition.

The Portland Vase was first discovered in the 16th century and was acquired by the House of Barberini where it remained for two centuries. In 1784, the "Barberini Vase" made its way into the collection of the dowager Duchess of Portland. In 1786, Josiah Wedgwood borrowed the newly-named "Portland Vase" and worked for four years to copy it in a black-and-white matte stoneware, called jasperware (Figure 4). Wedgwood's Portland Vase is displayed in museums and in collections worldwide. The company issued several editions of the vase into the 19th and 20th centuries, with declining quality.

In 1810, the original glass vase went on display at the British Museum. In 1845, it was shattered by a drunken visitor and has been repaired several times since then. Because the base was not original to the body, it has remained separated. After being on display for over a century, the museum purchased the vase in 1945.

Surpassing Wedgwood's technical achievements, Mettlach made its own Portland Vase, in the late 1800s, with a proprietary translucent



Figure 4. Wedgwood Vase

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Mettlach Vase (continued) soft-paste porcelain technique, called phanolith, which more closely resembles translucent glass. Mettlach's revolutionary phanolith wares, developed by Jean-Baptiste Stahl (1869—1932) who headed the factory's drawing department, went on display at the 1900 World's Fair in Paris and earned the highest award, the Grand Prix.⁵ Phanolith wares have mold numbers that start with 70; there are no known phanolith beer steins. Mettlach made an earlier version of its phanolith Portland Vase using an opaque "cameo" relief decoration, which cost much less to make. The model numbers of the vase in cameo and phanolith are #2447 and #7011, respectively. To learn more about Mettlach's manufacturing methods, read Dr. Roy C. De Selms article, *The Evolution of Relief, Cameo and Phanolith Wares*, in the June 2021 Prosit.⁶

Rather than copying the original Portland Vase, Stahl drew artistic inspiration from elsewhere. Having access to the company's vast art collection that included ancient Roman cameo glass and German renaissance stoneware, he combined a variety of early and contemporary motifs. The 1905 Mettlach catalog lists the #7011 vase as a Trojan War scene (*Scene aus dem trojanischen Krieg*). The scene depicts several warriors at rest with a few playing a game of dice. Ancient amphoras also depict warriors playing a similar game, such as the Greek amphora with Trojan warriors Achilles and Ajax shown in Figure 3.⁸ Mettlach designed other Trojan war scenes for plaques, jardinières, flower pots, vases, and more traditionally-shaped footed amphoras in cameo and phanolith. Unlike Wedgwood, which went on to design Portland Vases in a variety of shapes and sizes, Mettlach made one design that was shared by two model numbers, #2447 in cameo and #7011 in phanolith.

Figures and more information: 1. britishmuseum.org/collection/object/G_1945-0927-1 2. amoca.org 3. britishmuseum.org/collection/object/G_1851-0806-15 4. metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/187784

Other References: 5. kuuunst.de/jean-baptiste-stahl/vita/ 6. amoca.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Jun-2021_eProsit_deSelms.pdf 7. Post, Anton. Mettlacher Steinzeug 1885—1905 8. Jeff Ruda pointed out the vase

Board Meeting Minutes (continued) Vice-President, Bob Bebermeyer mentioned that he will be unable to host on June 10 due to storm damage to their home. Ralph Wege has volunteered to be the host at his home in Seaside. **General Meeting Minutes** Information from the Board Meeting was repeated. Les announced that he would speak about mini-steins and Ron Fox would speak about some of his favorite steins. Since the General Meeting repeats the Board Meeting information, only new information from the General Meeting is provided.

Meet New Member Jeff Ruda by Rhoda Fry

Jeff Ruda's adult life has been steeped in a fascination for ceramics from the renaissance through the 20th century. Having poured through the pages of the book *Early stoneware steins from the Les Paul collection* by Beatrix Adler, when Jeff learned of our meeting at Les Paul's home, he jumped on the opportunity. Jeff was also delighted to meet master steinologist Ron Fox, with whom he had previously communicated. Following Les's presentation on miniature steins and Ron's presentation on unusual steins, Jeff was hooked and joined the club. Welcome Jeff!



It was Jeff's grad school roommate at Harvard who had introduced him to ceramics by making him do his share of dusting! Fortunately, his emerging appreciation for ceramics outweighed any aversion to dusting. Jeff's continuing education led him westward to become a professor of Italian Renaissance and European Baroque Art at UC Davis. In addition to his research on the early Renaissance in Florence, he has studied the design reform movement in England and France during the mid- to late-nineteenth century.

In 2014, Jeff retired to San Francisco where he served as President of the San Francisco Ceramics Circle, which is affiliated with the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. The organization hosts a variety of lectures by scholars and museum curators from around the world in-person and via zoom. Learn more here: <https://sfceramic.org/>. Presently, he is editor of the American Ceramic Circle (ACC) Journal and as a board member of that organization, serves on the grants committee. He is also assisting the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento to expand their collection of ceramics that share the style and timeframe in which the museum was built. The Museum's original structure, from the 1880s, is the oldest art museum west of the Mississippi; it is even on the National Register of Historic Places. The "Italianate" building style belongs to the historicist movement, like many German steins of the same era. At the meeting, Jeff explained to a small group admiring Les' collection on how the writing on steins provides clues as to when they were made. We look forward to hearing Jeff's insights at future meetings as well!