

# PITTSBURGH STEIN SOCIETY NEWS

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## Next Meeting Schedule

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, **November 12, 2022**. This will be our last meeting for the year 2022.

As always, the meeting will begin at 12:00 noon with a luncheon, followed by a short business meeting. Stein sales tables can be set up as early as 11:30 am. A show-n-tell session will take place so please bring something (anything) to share with your fellow PSS members. Hope to see you there.

Since our September meeting had to be cancelled due to COVID-19, we expect a large turnout for this, our last meeting of the year.



## Happy Birthday Wishes



### **Happy Birthday To:**

*Brent Baade ..... October 3*

*Frank Weidler .... October 9*

*Craig Collister ... October 20*

*Lolly Sweigart .... October 24*

*Dianne Grace ..... October 25*

*Polly Rouhan ..... October 30*

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

## Did You Know

Did you know that Washington, PA (just a short distance South of Pittsburgh) is home to a fantastic glass museum known as the Duncan & Miller Glass Museum? The National Duncan Glass Society maintains the Duncan & Miller Glass Museum in order to preserve and share the heritage of George Duncan & Sons of Pittsburgh and the Duncan & Miller Glass Company of Washington, PA. The museum contains a large and beautiful collection of original Duncan & Miller Glass.

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### **OFFICERS**

President .....Tom Levenson  
Vice President ..... Bill Boss  
Treasurer ..... Joyce Hoffman  
Secretary ..... Mark Paden  
Guest Speaker Coordinator.. Tom Weber  
  
Newsletter Editor ..... Tom Levenson

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The Duncan & Miller Glass Museum is opened Thursday – Sunday, 11 AM to 4 PM (except holidays). Admission prices are: Adults \$10.00, Seniors \$8.00, Teens (13-18) \$5.00, Children (12 and under) free when accompanied by an adult. The museum is located at 100 Ridge Avenue, Washington, PA 15301. The phone number is 724-225-9950. Email:[docent@duncan-miller.org](mailto:docent@duncan-miller.org).

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

This month's featured article comes to us from non-other than our own newsletter Editor, Tom Levenson. For those of you who are not members of Stein Collectors International (SCI) or those who are members but don't read the articles published in *PROSIT* magazine (???), Tom's article was published in the September 2022 issue of *PROSIT* magazine. The article is titled "The Stein That Finally Came Home". I hope you enjoy reading it.



### **Tip of the Month**

Have you ever looked for the pewterer's touch mark on any of your steins? If you haven't, take a look; you may be surprised at what you find. Places to look for these marks are on the side of the hinge pin or on the underside of the strap that goes around the handle (turn the stein upside down for this one but remember to HOLD THE LID) or sometimes on the inside of the lid. Very few stein manufacturers in the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century made their own pewter lids, thumb lifts, etc. Most of this work was sent out to a private pewter shop who would supply and install the pewter work on the stein. Some (not all) would mark the pewter in an inconspicuous spot to identify their shop. Check out your stein to see how many have pewter touch marks on them.

### **Thank You Once Again**

We can't thank Mr. Ken Foster enough for his very generous donation of his entire collection of authentic German beer and wine glasses to the PSS. THANK YOU, Ken, for your generosity and your donation of this beautiful collection.

In line with Ken's approval and support, we will raffle off one half of Ken's beautiful collection at our November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting (the second half will be raffled off at the February meeting). If you can't make this meeting but would still like to take part in this raffle for this fantastic collection, just send me an email and arrangements will be made for you to participate in the raffle.



## The Stein That Finally Came Home

By Tom Levenson, Pittsburgh Stein Society



A couple of years ago I penned a sad tale about a particular occupational stein that I lost at an SCI convention auction due to my lack of conviction (and money). The title of that article was, "The Stein That Got Away," and it appeared in the Sept. 2020 issue of *Prosit*. The auction was a Ron Fox Auction and the time frame was the 2018 SCI Convention held in Richmond, VA. The stein is a beautiful ½-liter porcelain occupational in mint condition with the original owner's name, Philipp Freiermuth, shown boldly on the top of the stein body. The occupation depicted on this great looking stein is that of a Petroleum Coachman. The coach driver is seen driving two large horses which in turn are pulling a wagon advertising petroleum. The most interesting part of this very colorful and graphic stein, at least to me, is the inscription on the wagon which translates to "Pure Pennsylvania petroleum, the best of all American verities." Being a lifelong resident of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and an occupational stein collector as well, I thought that I just had to have this stein referring to Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania oil. As the bidding progressed I found myself in a two-person contest, and my opponent seemed pretty determined. After doing a quick calculation of where the bidding was going plus a 20% com-

mission plus shipping costs, I stopped my pursuit when the bidding hit \$500, and the other bidder walked off with "my" stein. A sad day for me and I've thought about that stein ever since. I thought that I would never see the stein again and probably would have to be happy with one similar to it although not as detailed nor as beautiful. Oh, well !!

But wait, lo and behold, as I browsed through the May 18, 2022 TSACO (The Stein Auction Company) auction catalog, to my great surprise and delight, there it was; my Pennsylvania Petroleum Coachman stein !! The name Philipp Freiermuth is boldly displayed and the reference to Pennsylvania petroleum is clear and defining, just as it was back in 2018 in Richmond, VA. What to do? What to do? Well, the answer to that question was simple, this stein was going to be mine even if I had to pay twice what I think the market value is. I'm not letting this stein be "The Stein That Got Away" once again.

The online bidding started slowly with the first bid starting out at \$150. In the end, there were twenty-three bids made on "MY STEIN"; I made 1/3 of them as I was not about to be outbid. The hammer fell with my last bid finally winning the long



sought-after prize. The shout of joy that came from deep within me was so loud that it was heard by my wife, two floors below my computer room where I was making my nervous bids. After settling down a little, I calculated my winning bid amount plus the buyer's commission plus a shipping charge and came to the realization that I just paid less than the amount this Pennsylvania Petroleum stein sold for back in 2018. I would have paid a whole lot more to have this stein in my collection. It now sits in a prominent place on a book shelf in our family room and every time I look at it, I think to myself, "here is the stein that finally came home."



## Oil Falls from \$10 to 10¢ per Barrel!

Yes, that's right. In 1861 the price of oil fell from a previous high of \$10 per barrel to only 10¢. This was a result of the same laws of demand and supply as apply today. Here's the story.

Prior to the 1850's, the use of petroleum was limited. It was only available from oil seeps, areas where petroleum rises to the surface like a spring. It was used by Native American tribes as an ointment, skin coloring, mosquito repellant and for medicinal and ceremonial purposes. Although such seeps were widely known in western Pennsylvania, there was no method to "mine" them.

One form of "mining" that was profitable at the time was salt-water wells. Wells were sunk into salt deposits, water was introduced to dissolve the salt, and then the wells were pumped for salt brine. The valuable salt was extracted from the brine by evaporation. Many saltwater wells in western Pennsylvania were plagued by the presence of petroleum in the brine, an undesirable contaminant. In the 1850's Samuel Kier recognized that the chemical makeup of the oil from his saltwater wells was the same as the medicine being prescribed for his wife and he began to drill for crude. Kier and a partner, John T. Kirkpatrick, began to distill the oil for use in lighting,

and Kier invented a lamp which eliminated the odor and smoke of earlier lamp oils. At the same time, the machinery of the industrial age was calling for more forms of lubrication, and the existing sources—whaling and seeps—were unable to meet the rising demand. Crude oil suddenly seemed more desirable!

In 1857 in the small Pennsylvania village of Titusville, Edwin Drake began drilling for oil. He was not very successful initially, and had to rely on a personal line of credit to continue his efforts, but in 1859 he struck oil at 69 feet below ground, enabling the first large scale extraction of petroleum. This set off an oil rush in western Pennsylvania, and Titusville became a boomtown. Much higher quantities of crude were pumped due to the proliferation of wells, and prices fluctuated wildly.



The first U.S. commercial oil well, drilled by Edwin Drake in 1859 on the banks of Oil Creek

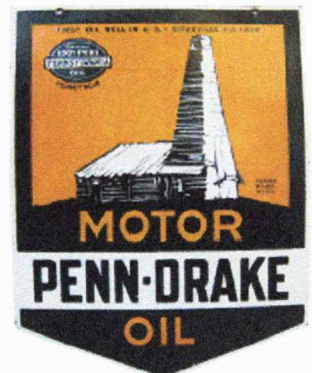
In the early years of the rush, oil was floated by skiff down Oil Creek to the Allegheny River. Two thirds of the cargo was lost through leaks, and 40% of the flimsy skiffs were lost to the river rocks. In 1862 the Oil Creek Railroad connected Titusville to other railroad lines, greatly improving access to large markets for crude oil.

Total domestic output of crude oil in 1859 was 2,000 barrels, but with the number of wells skyrocketing and distribution improved, production mounted quickly to 4M barrels by 1869, and 10M barrels just four years later. For much of the 19th and 20th centuries, the US was the largest oil producing country in the world. Those were the days!

Is it any wonder that Tom prizes his stein?

### References:

*Pennsylvania oil rush*, Wikipedia,  
The Free Encyclopedia  
*Titusville, Pennsylvania*, Wikipedia,  
The Free Encyclopedia  
*History of the petroleum industry in the United States*; Wikipedia,  
The Free Encyclopedia





THESE PHOTOS ARE OF JUST A PORTION OF KEN FOSTER'S  
BEAUTIFUL COLLECTION





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# The Gambrinus Stein Club



## Celebration and Mini-Conbention



**November 4 – 6, 2022**

Come join us for a fun and educational gathering of people of like minds, mainly, stein collecting. The price of admission includes: snacks and soft drinks/water each day, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reception Dinner (Saturday), and Lunch (Sunday).

### Summary of Events

#### Speakers

#### Ron Fox Auction

#### Stein Sales Tables

Location: 21515 Zion Road, Brookville, MD 20833

How: Complete and mail the registration form ([page 39](#)) with your payment

Cost: SCI Members                      \$90 per person

Non-SCI Members                    \$115 per person

If you are not currently a member of Stein Collectors International (SCI), you will receive a one-year membership to access all features associated with the membership, including our quarterly journal, *Prosit*, in digital form, and full access to all parts of the SCI website.



# Registration Form: Mini-Convention and Celebration 50th Anniversary of Gambrinus Stein Club

\*\*For those who are not SCI (Stein Collectors International) members, when you register, you will receive a one-year SCI membership to access all features associated with the membership including PROSIT magazine in digital format and access to the members only section of the SCI website.

## Hotel Registration: Comfort Inn

16216 Frederick Road  
Gaithersburg, Md 20877  
(301) 330-0023

**<https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/ZP85D8>**

If this link doesn't work, call them and give them the code or just mention the Gambrinus event.

\$89+tax/night for either a two Queen bedroom or a one King bedroom

**Hotel Rates/Registration deadline is October 21, 2022**

Full Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

eMail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ SCI # \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

|                               | # Attending  | COST            |
|-------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Registration SCI Member _____ | x \$90.00 =  | \$ _____        |
| Registration None SCI _____   | x \$115.00 = | \$ _____        |
| Stein Sale Table - Full Table | \$30.00      | \$ _____        |
| Stein Sale Table - 1/2 Table  | \$15.00      | \$ _____        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                  |              | <b>\$ _____</b> |

**Please make checks payable to: GAMBRINUS STEIN CLUB**

**Mail the completed form & check to: Gambrinus Stein Club  
14547 Pebblestone Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20905**

**Any questions, contact Ita Fogel, (301)236-9391 [twintankrd@aol.com](mailto:twintankrd@aol.com)**