

# PITTSBURGH STEIN SOCIETY NEWS

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*Here's to October !!!*  
*PROSIT !!*

## Next Meeting Schedule

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, **November 11, 2023**. This will be our last meeting for the year 2023.

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.

**!!!! BOO !!!!**

It's only the Schierholtz & Sohn SAD RADISH !!! See the following page. BE CAREFUL !!!



## 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 there are currently 521 active members in Stein Collectors International? SCI (as it is known) is truly an international organization with members located in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Hungary, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, The United Kingdom, and the USA. If you are not a member of SCI, now is a good time to join, and it is so easy. All you have to do is go to [www.stein-collectors.org](http://www.stein-collectors.org), click on the Subscribe or Renew tab and follow the instructions. The *Prosit* magazine that comes with every membership is worth the price of being a member.







Published Monthly by the Pittsburgh Stein Society

### **OFFICERS**

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

Newsletter Editor ..... Tom Levenson

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

Did you ever wonder what is the meaning or symbolism of all those character steins that we see in ever stein collection, every stein auction, every stein catalog and just plain everywhere? Why would a stein manufacturer make a stein of a cat? How many monkey owners were there in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century that would cause a monkey stein to be so popular? And what about that frog that shows up on so many steins ? For answers to these questions and many more, our featured article for this month comes to us from David Harr. David has one of the largest and most complete Character Stein collections known to man, woman or even frogs. David's article titled, "*Symbolism of Character Steins: What Do They Mean?*" first appeared in the December 2002 issue of *Prosit* magazine. I think that you will be surprised to see what some of these characters actually mean to stein manufacturers. Read on and enjoy.

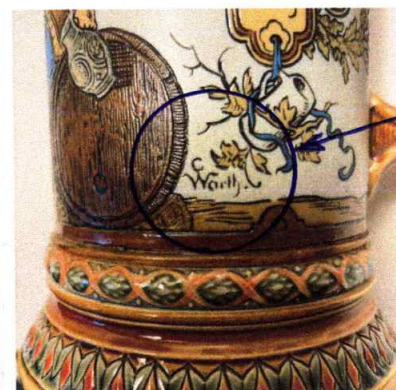


### **Tip of the Month**

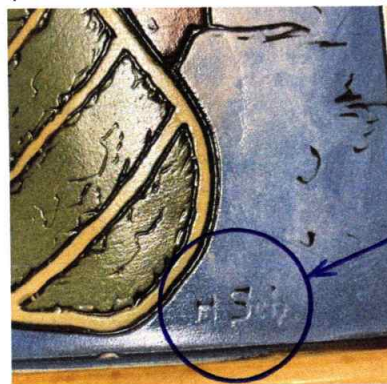
How many of us have steins that have a designer's signature or initials hidden somewhere on the stein body ? How many of us even know that these steins exist ? Well, they do and they are more prevalent than one would think. All you must do is know where to look for these surprisingly camouflaged names or initials. The few examples shown below will give you some idea of what to look for.



Example No.1



Example No.2



Example No.3



(Continued from page 2)

The examples shown on the previous page are described as follows:

Example No.1 ..... The "GT" stands for **Gustav Thinwibel**. It appears on a 1.0-liter, stoneware relief stein that was manufactured by Marzi & Remy. It is just left of the handle on the lower third of the stein (to the right of the handle the mold number 201 just begins to appear). **Gustav Thinwibel** was born in Berlin in 1853 and died in 1933. He designed steins almost exclusively for Marzi & Remy with over 100 designs attributed to him. Most, if not all, of the steins designed by **Gustav Thinwibel** will have his initials "GT" somewhere on the stein body.

Example No. 2 ..... This example shows us a stein with the name **C Warth**, inscribed into the body of the stein. It appears on the lower third of the stein just right of the front center. The stein is the ½ liter, Villeroy & Boch, Mettlach, mold No.1932. The stein was manufactured in 1899. **Christian Warth** was born in Birkenfeld, Germany in 1836. He suffered a severe stroke and died in 1890. Many of his designs remained in production at the Mettlach factory until, at least, 1906. He designed almost exclusively for Villeroy & Boch however he did design one stein for Matthias Girmscheid, that being mold number 1082.

Example No. 3 ..... This example shows us the very popular and very beautiful Mettlach stein, mold No. 2765, known as the *Knight on a White Horse*. This stein was designed by **Heinrich Schlitt** and is signed "H Sch" on the very bottom of the stein, just

above the foot ring, just to the left of the bottom of the handle. **Heinrich Schlitt** was born in 1849 and died in 1923. He was one of the in-house artists/designers for Villeroy & Boch at their Mettlach factory and soon after joining V&B he became one of its principal artists. Not all of his designs are signed (he created so many in his time at Mettlach) so if you find one, you have a real treasure.

Having a designer's name or initials appearing on a stein greatly increases the value of that stein. A lot of sellers and buyers alike overlook the fact that a designer's name or initials may appear somewhere on a stein thus never realizing what a special stein this may be. Now here is the real tip..... when looking at a stein, take the time to look carefully behind the handle or near the bottom ring or in a very detailed area of design, color, or decoration. You just might find an identifying mark or name of the designer of that stein and you will truly have something special to add to your stein collection.

Reference: Marzi & Remy Stein Catalog;  
Stein Marks;  
Wikipedia



A Heinrich Schlitt Gnome Design



## Symbolism of Character Steins: What Do They Mean?

by David Harr

In the early years when I looked at a character stein I would ask myself, "Why would anyone want to drink out of this?" Or better still, "Why do I want to collect them?" I guess I can speak for most character stein collectors - it's because we find them interesting to look at and fun to collect!

I found my thirst for knowledge growing fast. In my quest to learn more about my expanding collection, I started by buying all the books I could find about German steins. In the beginning these books helped me understand a lot about my character steins. They answered my questions of: "Who made them and where? What sizes were they made in? What was their value?" I would take the books with me whenever I was out looking for new steins to add to my collection. For a long time I was very content with this limited information.

Then my collection started to grow. I grouped my steins together by their factories and lined them up by size. When I would show my friends what I had in my collection, I was able to tell them their values and who made them. But over time I still felt something was missing. I still had the unanswered question as to why they were made. I would ask myself, "What was the importance of this stein?" "What was the designer thinking about when he designed it?" "Is there a story or a tale behind the design of this stein?" "What is it?" I would say to myself, "What is this stein trying to teach me about the German culture 100 plus years ago?"

When I joined SCI and met other character stein collectors, I began to ask them the questions the stein books couldn't answer for me. Someone told me that I needed to look back at the German culture a hundred years ago to answer these types of questions. This I knew, but where did I start? Then I met a character stein collector who gave me a paper he had written about German symbolism. This paper filled in more of the blanks. I began to understand what some of the character steins symbolized and the tales that they told. Below is the list. Maybe some of you will remember it?

### German Symbolism on Beer Steins

by: Mike Wald (updated by David Harr, Walt Vogdes and Rich Cress)

Alligator: Gluttony

Bear: Uncouth person, and also the symbol for the city of Berlin.

Boot Tankard: The German word for boot is "*Stiefel*" which also means a large tankard.

Bull: Stubborn blockhead. Also strength.

Cat-Tomcat: Hangover. The German word for cat is *Kater*, which is also the word for hangover.

Clown: Happiness state, elation, sometimes caused by intoxication.

Dog: Loyalty.

Donkey: Someone who can't hold his alcohol very well.

Fox: First year society student at a university.

Frog: An initiate to a college society, a dry throat, thirst.

Falstaff (Sir John): A fictional Shakespearian character.

Funnel: Nürnberg funnel of knowledge, Nürnberg Trichter.

Gambrinus: Patron saint of beer, or King of Beer.

Gooseman: Gooseman Fountain, located in Nürnberg, a symbol of that city.

HB: Hofbräuhaus in Munich.

Herring: Old world remedy for sobering up the next morning.

Hexagram: Brewer's symbol.

Iron Maiden: Symbol of Nürnberg's prisons.

Lion: Courage, or the symbol of Bavaria.

Monkey: Intoxication. "A monkey on your back." Also trickery.

Here are a few of my own additions:

Owl: Wisdom, knowledge.

Pig: Gluttony. Also a good luck symbol.

Satan: Vices, drinking, smoking, gambling and using drugs.

Skull: Death.

With this list I was content again for a short time, but with well over 1100 different character steins made at the turn of the last century, I still find myself with a lot of unanswered questions.

After many years of collecting there is one thing for certain- there are always questions. Some have answers and some I may never know. Today what I enjoy most about collecting is searching for more information about the steins I collect and sharing it with other collectors. When I found this list a week ago and reread it, I thought it would be nice to see it in print again. It helped me and hopefully it can help you, too.

## The Man in the Moon

by David Harr

Here's another symbol, and a version of how it came to be.

Here's the story of a stein from my collection, whose origin is a very old German fairy tale. When I was a child I remember hearing a story about the man in the moon, but it was a bit different than the one below.

"The Man in the Moon" by Jakob and Wilhelm Grimm.

Translated by Maiitha Humphreys

The Tale of the Man in the Moon

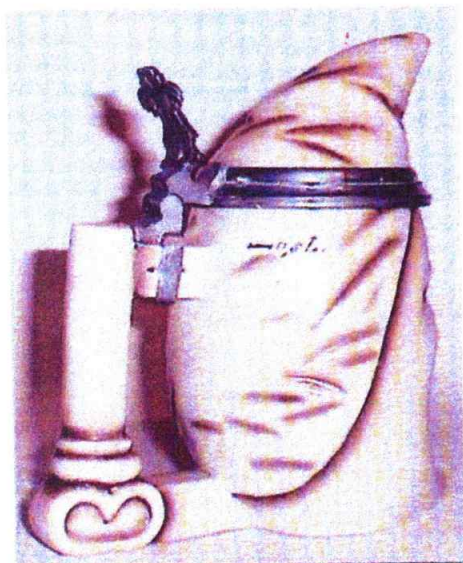


The Man in the Moon stein (also known as the Jay Leno stein).



"In ancient times a man went into the forest on a beautiful Sunday morning. He chopped a large bundle of wood, tied it up, inserted a staff, lifted the bundle, and carried it home.

Along the way he encountered a handsome man dressed in his Sunday clothes. The man stopped and said, "Do you know that everywhere on earth it's Sunday, the day the dear Lord rested after he had created the world and all the animals and people? Do you not know that it is written in the Third Commandment that you should observe the holy day?" The inquirer was the dear Lord himself. That woodcutter was quite defiant and answered, "Sunday on earth or Mo(o)nday in heaven, what concern of that is mine, and what concern is that of yours?"



The other side of the Moon.

"Then you shall carry your bundle of wood forever!" spoke the dear Lord, "and since Sunday on earth is of so little value to you, from now on every day into eternity shall be Mo(o)nday for you, and you shall stand in the moon to serve as a warning to those who desecrate Sunday with work."

From this time on, the man with the bundle of wood is still standing in the moon and probably will remain standing there into all eternity.

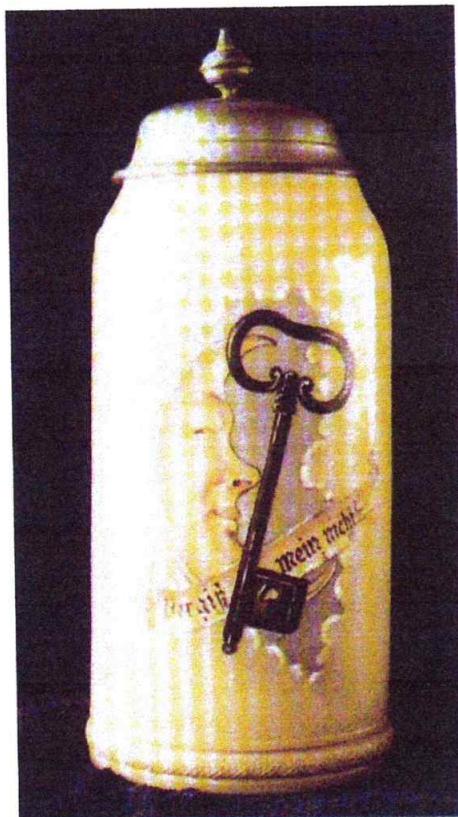
After reading this tale about the Man in the Moon, think back a hundred plus years ago about life in Germany. Religion played an important part in their lives. I can see why this stein was made. Can you?

"The Man in the Moon stein"

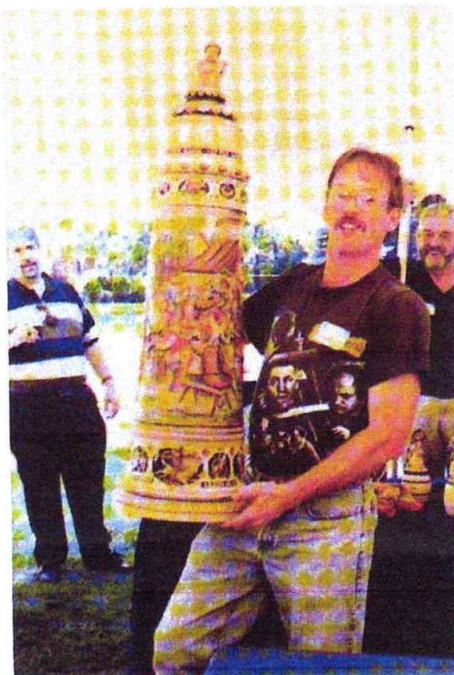
By E. Bohne and Söhne, Rudolstadt, Germany. Made in two heights.

The larger is 7 W, found marked both half and four-tenths liter, and the second size is 5" marked three-tenths and quarter-liter.

Editor's note: My Man in the Moon stein is a one-liter, handpainted Mettlach, form number 285. The verse is *Vergiss mein nicht!* (Forget me not!), which may well be a reference to the Lord. However, I don't know what the key symbolizes. Do you?



Another Man in the Moon stein.



David Harr - a man with a big thirst!