

PITTSBURGH STEIN SOCIETY NEWS

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Leaves, leaves, leaves.
I give UP !!!

Next Meeting Schedule

Our next meeting will be held this month, Saturday, November 11, 2023. This will be our last meeting for 2023. A show-n- tell session followed by stein sales tables will be just two of the features of this final meeting of the year. An all-you-can eat, sandwich buffet lunch will start us off. The price for lunch will be \$7 for stein club members and \$10 for non-stein club members. Hope to see you all there for our last meeting of 2023. Bring a guest or two and a stein or two with you. All are always welcome.



Ostrich Egg Drinking Vessels photos
courtesy of Prosit Magazine.

Happy Birthday Wishes



Happy Birthday To:

Adam Sellers November 2
Jeff Bukovich November 5
Vicki Hoffman November 10
Robyn Allen November 17
Jeff Korczyk November 20
Kathy Lindstrom .. November 23
Joe Corrigan November 24

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



From all your officers of the *Pittsburgh Stein Society*, we want to wish you and your loved ones a safe and healthy Thanksgiving for this year 2023.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING !!

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

Newsletter Editor Tom Levenson

Get Well Soon

Please remember in your thoughts and prayers our fellow member, Joe Uhler who is recovering from a hip injury. Get well soon Joe.

Teutonia News

Every quarter of each year, the Teutonia Männerchor club issues a newsletter to bring its members up to speed on the happenings of the club and what activities are or have been going on since the last quarter. As an official activity under the Teutonia umbrella, we, the Pittsburgh Stein Society, are asked to submit an article about our stein club's activities and plans for the future. Attached, you will find the PSS' article which will appear in the Teutonia newsletter for November.

Tip of the Month

So, you were the lucky person who made the winning bid in the last stein auction and after paying ONLY \$250 plus a 25% commission plus shipping costs; a beautiful, mint condition, 100+ year old porcelain stein arrives at your house. After unwrapping this fantastic purchase, you have, what you think, is the great idea of *"let's have a cold beer out of this stein."* **DON'T DO IT !!!**

Now, realizing that no one has the right to tell you what to do with that great purchase and if you really want to use your new stein to help you enjoy your favorite beverage (beer does seem to stay colder longer in a stein) then you go right ahead and do it. HOWEVER, just keep in mind that steins are more than just drinking vessels. They are, for the most part, works of art that, as in your purchase, have lasted for over 100 years. They are meant to be enjoyed by researching them, putting them in a place of honor in your collection and having your friends and relatives enjoy seeing them. **DON'T DRINK OUT OF THEM !!** (unless you really want to). Now, finally, this month's tip: If you want to drink out of a stein (who doesn't) find yourself a nice, inexpensive, well-made stein (I'm thinking stein sales tables) that won't break your budget and one that will not break your heart when you accidentally hit it on the bar or table, while enjoying your cold beer, and it shatters into many small pieces. Drinking out of steins is a good idea; drinking out of antique, hand painted, works of art is not.

Featured Article of the Month

Did you ever consider the possibility of having a stein in your collection that comes with royalty? Royal Vienna Steins are considered by many stein collectors (this Editor included) as the most beautiful steins of all. Of course, with beauty comes high prices. However, having just one of these magnificent steins in your collection is truly a worthwhile goal.

This month's featured article first appeared in the June 2006 issue of Prosit magazine. It is written by Rick Grunin who is fortunate enough to have several of these fantastic steins in his collection.

(continued on page 3)

(continued from page 2)

In talking to Rick, he tells me that the prices are now down as low as he has seen them in many years of collecting them and now is the time to buy your one and only Royal Vienna Stein (or maybe two or three). Thank you, Rick, for this great article on the steins of royalty.

Its Dues Time Again

Notices will go out in December to all members whose memberships are up for renewal by the end of this year. We kindly ask that you renew your membership as soon as possible. A membership renewal form will accompany the dues notice. If we want to continue to have guest speakers attend our meetings and if we want to continue to enjoy delicious German fare lunches, dues must be paid on time (or earlier) so that we can continue to enjoy our stein club experience. Thank you in advance for your continued support of the Pittsburgh Stein Society.

Name Badges

Have you ordered your official Pittsburgh Stein Society name badge yet? It's not too late to do so. Just fill out the form attached to this newsletter and send it along with a check to our Treasurer, Joyce Hoffman. Supplies are running short so don't wait to place your order (and don't forget to order one for your spouse/partner as well).

Articles Needed

Every one of us has a favorite stein or two and every stein has a story behind it. Sharing those stories is part of what makes our hobby of stein collecting enjoyable. We usually have a very nice show-n-tell session during our PSS meetings where our members share stories about their steins but, unfortunately, we do not get many articles for this newsletter from you, our members. Every member is invited to submit an article for the newsletter. While there are many sources of stein related articles, the best articles come from your personal experiences and collections. So, what do you say, take a shot at being the author of one of our Featured Articles of the Month. We're not expecting an Ernest Hemingway or a Stephen King, we are just looking for you, our fellow PSS member, to tell us a short story about your stein collecting experiences. Photos would be great, but not necessary. You can do it !!! PLEASE GIVE IT A TRY.



(Bismark Stein in three different colors)



The Beer Stein Magazine

PR  SIT

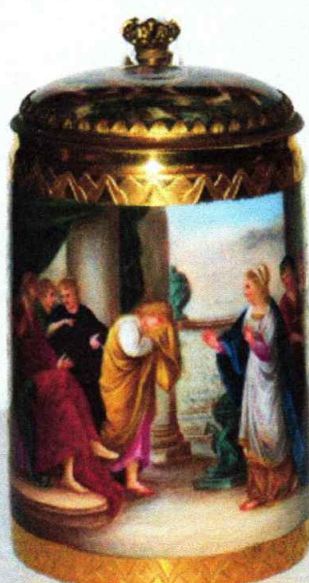


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Stein Collectors International

June 2006

Royal Vienna Steins



Royal Vienna Type Steins

by Rick Grunin
Photographs by June Grunin

When I saw and held my first Royal Vienna Type Stein it was love at first sight. It was November, 1990 and I had been invited to the open meeting of the Student Prince Chapter of SCI at the Student Prince Restaurant in Springfield, Massachusetts. The Student Prince Restaurant is one of the last remaining German restaurants which has a very large beer stein collection on display.

I had met several of the members of the Student Prince Chapter at an auction in West Bridgewater, Massachusetts, the previous July and they extended an invitation to join them this day. I had been a member of SCI since 1988, but had collected mostly new steins. At the West Bridgewater auction, I purchased my second Mettlach and a large fancy pottery relief stein. I had no idea what was in store for me.

Upon entering the Student Prince Restaurant, also known as the Fort, I headed for the back room reserved for the stein gathering. When I entered the back room, I noticed a line of people in front of a man holding a stein. I joined the line and waited my turn. I noticed people looking and marveling at a stein, so I became interested and excited. When it was my turn two remarkable things happened, I found myself holding the most beautiful stein I had ever seen, and I met Ron Fox. Ron explained to me that this was a Royal Vienna stein, hand painted, and most probably made in Dresden about 100 years ago. It was unbelievable with a large painting on the front (figure 1) and an additional painting on both the top and underside of the inlaid lid (figures 2 and 3). The back was absolutely stunning with intricate gold painted designs amidst colors of mint green, dark green, maroon, yellow and pink with white dots. It had a gold handle and crown thumbblift (figure 4). Ron told me to take the stein and examine it as long as I wished. Well, I never let it go and purchased it for what was an overwhelming price for me at the time. But actually, I learned that Ron Fox had sold it to me for a very fair price and today its value has approximately doubled. But I would never part with this stein, my first Royal Vienna.

figure 1



figure 4



Over the next 15 years I have been fortunate enough to collect another seventeen "Royal Vienna Steins" of ¼, ½, and 1 liter capacities.

The History of these "Royal Vienna Type Steins" began with the Vienna Porcelain Factory, the second porcelain factory in Europe, Meissen being the first. It existed from 1718-1744, when as a result of financial problems, the Austrian government took control of the Vienna Factory and operated it until 1864, when the Austrian Parliament closed it. As Europe entered the second half of the nineteenth century, the Industrial Revolution had spread from Great Britain, where it had begun a century earlier. With the transformation of society from an agrarian to an industrial lifestyle, mass production techniques led to an increase in cheaper consumer goods for the newly empowered middle class. The Vienna Factory's production of individually made and hand-painted steins, while not out of the price range of the upper class aristocracy, was not what the middle class consumer wanted. Thus the closing of the Vienna Factory.

The identifying mark on the bottom of Royal Vienna Steins is commonly referred to as a "beehive". The original mark on Royal Vienna Steins was the Bindenschild, used by the Vienna Factory operated by the Austrian government. It was from the coat-of-arms of the Austrian Hapsburgs, the ruling family that spread its power across Europe, including the Holy Roman Empire and Spain, through their policy of marriage. After the closing of the Vienna Factory, other porcelain manufacturers produced these steins and marked them by imitating the Binden-

figure 2

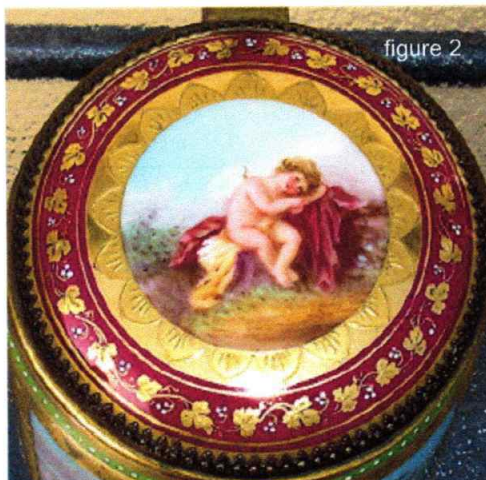


figure 3



shield. The shield was turned upside down making it look like a beehive. Collectors now refer to this mark as the "Beehive mark". You usually find this mark in dark blue under the glaze (figure 5), but on occasion it can also be found in black and iron red.

figure 5



Today, the original Royal Vienna Steins from the early 1700's are mostly in museums and not in the hands of the general public. The ones we see, buy and sell today were made between the years 1890-1914, thus the terminology: "Royal Vienna Type Steins".

There were two major factories that can be identified as making these steins:

- 1) Ackermann and Fritze in Volkstedt
- 2) A. Lamm in Dresden. This studio used a mark of a figural lamb over the word Dresden (figure 6).

figure 6



figure 7



figure 8



The scenes painted on these porcelain bodies can be broken down into three main categories:

1. Portraits: Victorian ladies, monks and religious leaders like popes, bishops, cardinals, etc. (figures 7 and 8).
2. Mythological or Romanesque scenes: Based on Renaissance Paintings. These often include cherubs involved in a myriad of mischievous activities (figs. 9 and 10).

figure 9



figure 10



3. Chinoiserie style: Oriental designs were still having its influence on European porcelain. Oriental scenes on light colored backgrounds are the least commonly found on Royal Vienna Type steins (figure 11).

figure 11



In describing "Royal Vienna Type Steins" there are many characteristics to consider:

Royal Vienna steins are handpainted with a scene on the front and often times a scene on the top and underside of the porcelain inlay lid (figures 1-3).

Delicate brass mounted inlay lid with crown thumbflit - although the 1 Liter steins usually have a different thumbflit.

Gold Handle - fired on gold leaf covering the entire handle.

Beautiful background colors - yellow, cobalt blue, pink, maroon, green, white, peach, violet, purple and orange.

Detailed gilding over threaded enamel which raised the gold giving the stein a quality unlike other manufacturers.

Title of the scene written on the bottom (figure 12).

figure 12



Artist signature. These signatures are frequently misunderstood as indicating the painter of the stein. But since the Royal Vienna Type steins we see today were made from the 1890's - 1914 and the artists whose names appear painted much earlier, the signatures represent the artist of the original painting upon which the stein is based, and not the actual painter of the stein. For example: a common signature on Royal Viennas is Kauffman. This stands for the famous Swiss painter Angelica Kauffman who lived from 1741-1807. One of her most famous paintings is "The Lovers: Rinaldo and Armida". This scene is common on Royal Viennas, but she did not paint the steins. You can also see her name spelled Kauffmann, but she usually used only one n. (An example of this Kauffman painting on a Royal Vienna, produced by the Lamm Studio is in figure 10.)

Royal Vienna type steins were produced in a variety of sizes including 1/16 & 1/8 liter miniatures, as well as 1/4, 1/2, 3/4, and 1 liter sizes. Steins larger than 1 liter are rare, and the 5 liter steins with set on lids are transfers, not hand painted.

figure 13



figure 14



Figures 13, 14, & 15 are of 1/4L size

figure 15



Royal Vienna steins. The body shape and mounts, with inlayed lid, are exactly the same as the miniatures through 1/2 liter sizes. The 1 liter size takes on a bell shaped body with an all porcelain lid (figures 16- 20).

figure 16



figure 17



figure 18



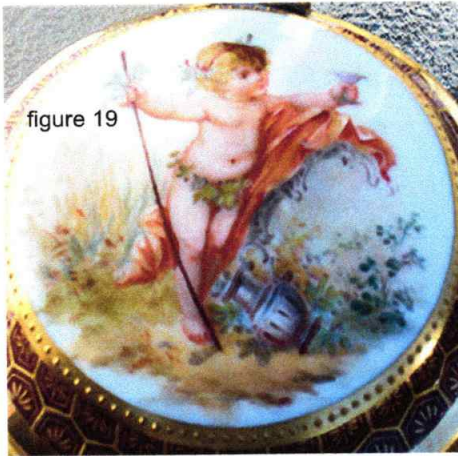


figure 19



figure 20

figure 21



The 3/4 Liter size is the most uncommon and is just a tapered porcelain body with all brass handle, base rim and lid (figure 22).

figure 22



Type miniatures. As you can see they are figure 23



made exactly like the larger sizes with the brass mounts and inlaid lids. These are from the Les Paul collection.

If you are fortunate enough to own a "Royal Vienna Type" stein, you possess a true work of art. Their workmanship, beauty, quality and history make them one of the finest examples of European culture and heritage.

References:

Harris, Ann Sutherland and Linda Nochlin. Women Artists: 1550-1950. New York: Alfred A. Knoff, 1977.

Stuart, John. The Beer Stein Journal. Coral Springs, Florida: Gary Kirsner Publisher, 1995.



Figure 23 shows a group of Royal Vienna

THE PITTSBURGH STEIN SOCIETY

The stein club has had a very busy year, so far, in 2023. Our next and final meeting for 2023 will take place on November 11, 2023. This will be our fifth meeting of the year. Happily, with COVID now being less of a limiting factor, we will be able to have all five of our stein club meetings, just as we had scheduled.

February's meeting started us off with twenty-nine attendees being present. This was the second highest number of attendees (34 being the highest) of any meeting. The remaining pieces of Mr. Ken Foster's collection of beautiful, original, German brewery glasses were raffled off. Several stein club members were lucky enough to take home one or more of these very unusual and intricately designed brewery glasses. The show-n-tell session had seven members share their special steins with all those present. February's meeting was a great start for 2023.

Our April meeting was one of our special meetings where an outside guest speaker is invited to make a presentation to our members present. Mr. Chuck Keiser traveled from the Philadelphia, PA area to Pittsburgh to be our guest speaker for the afternoon. Chuck was accompanied by his wife Michelle. Chuck's topic was "The Evolution of Westerwald Steins" and he gave a fantastic power-point presentation on this topic which was greatly enjoyed by all present. A delicious hot lunch was prepared by Jimbo as another special treat for all stein club members.

June's meeting had twenty-two members in attendance with two members coming in from Youngwood, PA. One of our long-time members, Jim Bee, brought his son and a friend all the way from Johnson, PA. Tom Levenson gave a power point presentation on the hand painted and whimsical Corona Beer Character steins. The 50/50 raffle resulted in a member taking home \$60. Hot Bavarian Pretzels were the stars of the buffet luncheon.

September's meeting provided more than a few surprises. The first one being the large number of members and guests that attended this meeting. A September meeting usually sees twenty-two to twenty-five attendees. This September meeting had well over 30 attendees and several guests. Another surprise was that two members of Teutonia came to our stein club meeting and, before leaving, both joined the Pittsburgh Stein Society. And finally, what was thought to be a cold sandwich buffet lunch turned out to be hot knockwurst, bratwurst, coleslaw, hot German potato salad and hot Bavarian pretzels. Jimbo went all out on this great and delicious surprise.

Our last meeting of 2023 will take place on November 11th. As always, all members of Teutonia and their guests are welcome to attend this meeting. Who knows, maybe more surprises are on the way !!



Tom Levenson

President, The Pittsburgh Stein Society

PITTSBURGH STEIN SOCIETY

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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: _____

Stein Collectors International

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