

PITTSBURGH STEIN SOCIETY NEWS

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WHAT A GREAT MONTH !!!!

Next Meeting

Our next stein club meeting will be on Saturday, June 15, 2024. This will be a show-n-tell meeting so bring along a few steins that you can share with all of us at the Pittsburgh Stein Society (PSS). We will offer a sandwich buffet complete with German meats, cheeses, and side dishes. Our always low prices of \$7.00 for stein club members and \$10.00 for non-stein club members will once again be in place (exact change please). Lunch will begin at 12:00 noon in the Teutonia Ratskeller followed by a brief business meeting. The "Learn Deutsch" club will be conducting their German class ahead of our meeting so please respect their need for quiet voices. If you know someone who is interested in joining our stein club, by all means, bring them with you. Hope to see you there.



Birthday Wishes



Happy Birthday To:

Amy Baade May 4
Heide Engel May 6
Eileen Froehlke ... May 8
Alan Trivilino May 12
Frank Glazer May 13
Jim Bee May 18
Peter Froehlke ... May 20
Diane Ragaller May 23
Bob Lindstrom May 24
Brian Heshler May 26
Jim Rouhan May 29
Tom Levenson May 29

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

Welcome New Members

From all of us at the PSS, WELCOME to Sheree & Forest Wassum who joined our stein collecting family on April 13, 2024. Thank you, Shree & Forest, from all your fellow members at the PSS. We hope to see you at all of our meetings.

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Society

OFFICERS

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

April 13, 2024 Meeting

If you missed this one, you missed one of the best meetings the PSS ever had !! To say that this meeting was a success would be a huge understatement. Forty-three attendees were present for this meeting (a new record) which included five guests and thirty-eight PSS members. We started out with a special hot buffet lunch that was equal to any buffet offered by Teutonia at any of their sit-down events. With a menu that included roast pork, two kinds of Wurst, Bavarian pretzels and much, much more, no one went away hungry. Following lunch, our guest speaker, Steve Steigerwald, gave a fantastic power-point presentation on Mettlach steins and other types of Mettlach ware. Steve is acknowledged worldwide as the leading expert on Mettlach ceramics. He is a past Executive Director of Stein Collectors International, he was the first President of the Burgermeister Chapter of SCI, and he has been awarded the highest honor of SCI, that being the title of "Mastersteinologist." His subject matter and his knowledge of it, along with his ability to interact with his audience, really held our attention. Thank you, Steve Steigerwald, for a great presentation.

Steve is always happy to answer any questions you may have on Mettlach steins and stein collecting in general. Steve can be reached at the following:

Steve Steigerwald
Phone: 516-939-9866
Email: icollectsteins@aol.com

April 13, 2024 Meeting (cont.)

The lucky winner of the 50/50 raffle took home \$135 (the largest amount ever) and one of our newest members, in a supplemental free raffle, won a very nice Weiherstephan Brewery stein which was very generously donated to the PSS by one of our Founding Members, Hal Platt. Just right for someone who is just starting a collection.

Stein sales tables were located in three areas of the Ratskeller and, as always, great bargains were there to be had by the buyers.

Our longtime friends and PSS members Jim & Polly Rouhan were present, stopping on their way from New Mexico to their summer home in Vermont. Also, Jeff Arduini came in from Erie, PA and Hermann Westphal and his guest came all the way from Woodstock, Maryland. And, how can we have a stein club meeting without Hal Platt and Jim Bee coming in from Johnstown, PA? It is always good to see our friends and fellow PSS members who travel long distances to attend our meetings. It is members like them that makes the task of making all the arrangements needed for a PSS meeting worthwhile. Thanks to all.

Featured Article of the Month

Once again, we are very fortunate and very pleased to feature an article written by one of our Founding Members, Hal Platt. Hal has written several articles over the years which have been featured in our Newsletters and every one of them has been interesting, instructional, and extremely well done.

In this month's Featured Article, Hal introduces us to an item that is known as a "GO WITH." Hal does an excellent job on explaining the purpose of this particular "go with" and the history of Germany prior to year 1914.

Thank You Hal, once again, for sharing your knowledge, your collection, and your writing ability with all your friends and fellow members of the Pittsburgh Stein Society.

Memorial Service

As you may recall from an earlier email sent out to the membership, our good friend and PSS member, Bill Dimmock, passed away on March 9, 2024. A memorial service will be held for Bill on Saturday, May 18, 2024. Please keep Bill and his loving wife Pat, in your hearts and minds on this special day and, if so inclined, please say a little prayer for Bill and one for Pat asking God to give her the strength to carry on.

Did You Know

Did you know that our Pittsburgh Stein Society now has 56 households represented in our stein club? Also, did you know that we now have 25 members who are also members of Stein Collectors International, making our Chapter the one with the most SCI members of any of the 22 Chapters within SCI? **CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF US AT THE PSS !!**

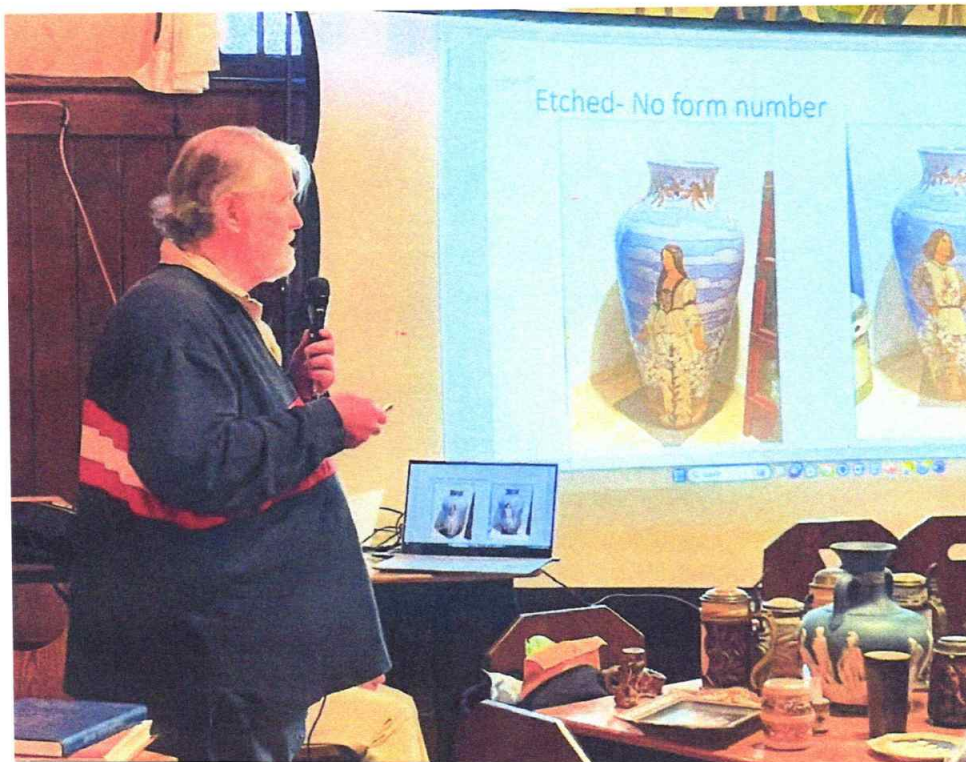
Photo Page

The photos on the following page were taken by our Guest Speaker Coordinator, Tom Weber, (who, by the way, did an excellent job of getting Steve Steigerwald to be our guest speaker for our April meeting) and are from our meeting held on April 13, 2024.

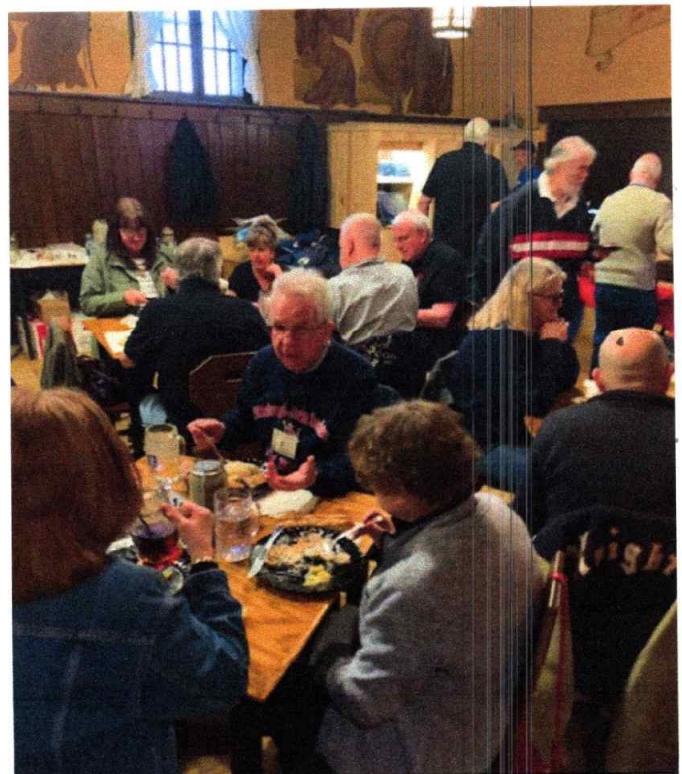


Pennsylvania pure crude oil delivery wagon
c. 1890

*PHOTOS OF OUR GUEST SPEAKER, STEVE STEIGERWALD, AND PSS MEMBERS
APRIL 13, 2024*



**PHOTOS OF OUR GUEST SPEAKER, STEVE STEIGERWALD, AND PSS MEMBERS
APRIL 13, 2024**



AN INTERESTING “GO WITH”

In this article I would like to stray away from the normal discussions concerning beer steins and turn to some of what we call “go with items”. Particularly, here is an item that shares a space on the shelf with my regimental steins. It is a Regimental Schnapps Flask. (Schnapps being “a strong alcoholic drink resembling gin and often flavored with various types of fruit”)

Just as the returning Reservists bought steins as souvenirs, so too they also purchased such items as walking sticks or canes, regimental style long pipes, and of course the schnapps flasks among other items as well. These items were fairly expensive for the wages of the Reservists costing as much as 5 to 7 weeks of their annual salary.

Now let’s take a look at the make-up of these impressive pieces.

First their availability. There are not as many of these readily available as are the steins. The cost of the flasks were, at the time, considerably more so than the cost of the steins and other items. So you won’t find them in every auction but they do come up a couple of times a year.

The body consists of a round thick glass bottle usually (not always) encased within a “clam shell” type of protection. This can be made of a chrome type metal or leather or wood material or just a plain milk glass bottle with no covering at all. There will be two pictures - one on the front and one on the reverse of the flask - depicting various events in the Reservists life away from home. These will be separated into quadripartite images (an image shown in four parts) usually outlined by colorful horizontal and vertical lines. Attachments will consist of a cord or rope for carrying over the shoulder and a threaded metal cap on the top (also used as a shot glass) – either with or without a finial.

Now we need a little historical background on the make-up of Germany before the Great War (1914 – 1918):

At this time the whole of Germany was made up of many Kingdoms or Principalities. There were four major ones and numerous ones of lesser importance. Each had their own distinctive flags and colors. The four major Principalities were **Prussia** to the north who’s colors were Black, White & Red;

Saxony who's colors were Green & White; **Wurttemberg** who's colors were Black & Yellow; and to the South was **Bavaria** who's colors were Blue & White.

Now this particular flask once belonged to a Reservist Huffemaun who was stationed in the 15th Prussian Infantry Regiment and was garrisoned in the town of Minden. We know this from the colors of the shoulder cord (Prussia) and the inscriptions on the front picture of the flask. He was discharged from active duty in 1903 and probably started inactive reserve time until he would reach the age of forty-five.

One particular interesting event that is depicted on the front is that Reservist Huffemaun is seen behind bars in what is called the "*brig*". He must have committed some sort of infraction or misdeed contrary to the Military Code!

On the reverse we see a rather large picture of Reservist Huffemaun sitting astride a ram or goat either being chased away or being called back to make amends with what appears to be a women scorned. This is of significant importance as it is repeated on the finial as well. This scene is not unique to this flask. I have seen it on like pieces a number of times.

On some of these flasks you will find an opening in the center on the reverse side - shaped like a square, a circle, a diamond or a heart. This will have a flap or door which opens revealing another picture on the bottle itself. This will be of some special importance to the Reservist. These flasks are great to find and naturally have increased in value over time.

So if you have a regimental stein or two, you might want to consider one of these interesting pieces as a complimentary "go with" for them.

Information sources:

Wikipedia.org

Jennifer Hackney – Senior Material Culture and Educator for THE MARINER'S MUSEUM AND PARK, Newport News, VA.

Mr. John Harrel – renowned authority on Regimental Steins, etc.; for his assessment of this piece (11/02/2013).



REAR VIEW



CAP WITH FINIAL
(SHOT GLASS)