



# The Optimator



BILL SULLIVAN, EDITOR

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MARY SULLIVAN, TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

## *THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER*

Our first meeting of the 2010 stein year was held at the mountaintop home of Gary Mayer in Hampden, Massachusetts on May 8. Gary's home is majestic, as you can see four states from his large deck. Inside Gary has a magnificent stein collection that includes Royal Vienna, Mettlach, and rare character steins. In addition, Gary's living room is home to many original historical paintings and Tiffany lamps.

The 25 Student Prince members who gathered at the Mayer home were treated to Gary's overwhelming hospitality. There were wonderful appetizers, including shrimp cocktail and a fantastic catered German meal with homemade desserts. Gary's daughter Jennifer and granddaughter were excellent hostesses and everyone ate and drank to capacity.

Instead of a guest speaker, people brought favorite steins as show and tell. Similar to "Stein College", members presented unique steins for discussion and analysis. Steins viewed included an Hungarian majolica stein with a cracked glass lid, a hand painted porcelain 4F stein with a picture of Wilhelm II on it, and some rare and unusual character steins. This format got everyone involved and proved educational and entertaining. Student Prince thanks Gary Mayer and his family for a wonderful stein afternoon.

Our next meeting is June 26 at the New Hampshire home of Paul Danis, Jr. and Jane Landry. On August 28, we will meet at the Cape Cod home of June and Rick Grunin. In late September or early October we will meet at the home of Bill and Joyce Pasco in Farmington, Connecticut. Our annual open meeting will be Saturday, November 6 at the Student Prince Restaurant. Dues will be collected at the next meeting so don't forget your wallets. Good Stein Hunting.

Prosit,  
Rick Grunin

## *FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK*

Our first meeting of the season got off to a great start at the beautiful mountain home of Gary Mayer. The meeting was highlighted by the splendid views from Gary's palatial home and the excellent dinner prepared by his daughter Jennifer and granddaughter Lindsey.

Gary's speaker's program consisted of Student Prince members speaking about a favorite or the most interesting stein in his or her collection. Among the speakers of the meeting was Gary Mayer, himself, who spoke on the early days of his youth when he served on the Rhine River Patrol with the United States Navy. Gary proudly displayed his stein from the Rhine River Patrol and a remarkably well preserved basketball jacket from the Patrol as well.

Bill Sullivan showed us a student stein from the Lehr u. Versuchsanstalt für Brauer (Brewers' Academy) in Munich. It was from the summer semester of 1910, and like a military stein, displayed a roster of names, not of soldiers, but of the students of that semester. Bill said it was the only one he had ever seen.

Other interesting speakers included: Art Slicer, Ginny Scheller, Ralph Joyce, Doug Eklund, Charlotte Whitham and Les Whitham.

Needles to say, everyone was fascinated by Gary's superlative collection consisting of Mettlachs, Royal Viennas and other types including military and brewery steins.

Another interesting aspect of Gary's meeting were the napkins and dining room table covering, all appearing in the colors of the Federal Republic of Germany: black, red and gold.

Many thanks, Gary, for a really great kick-off to the 2010/11 season!

Photos from the meeting:



The Munchner Kindl or Munich Child Stein with No Hood  
By Charlotte Whitham  
Photography by Les Whitham

I believe most stein collectors have a Munich Child stein in their collection or at least have seen one. I have written several articles about this subject; one article discussed how the first kindles were boys or monks and with time they miraculously turned into females of various ages, and another article on what happens to Munich Kindles who drink the beer barrel dry. Well here we go again.

Most Munich Child steins are females and dressed in a long black gown with a hood covering their head. They are carrying a stein, radishes, Bible, or etc. The outfit usually has a yellow apron or wide strip down the front of the gown. Some of them are beautiful females.

This winter I found a Munich stein and she interested me because she had no hood on her head. I know I did not own a kindl like this. The only problem was the stein was coming from England and I wasn't sure how this worked. I called my friend Ron Fox and he said I would have no problem. He assured me that e-bay would tell me how much to pay in dollars and that we could send dollars. The stein arrived in two weeks and I was very pleased with my purchase. She is great.

She is a ½ liter stein that is 8 ¼ inches tall. There is a stein in her hands and a radish under both arms. Her sleeves are decorated with pink bows and trimmed with pink trimming. The Bavarian crest in blue and white diamonds decorates the button of the gown. The lid has a pewter rim with a pink rim decoration. The robe has a slight V so her neck shows. Most of the other steins like this seem to have no necks. She has dark blond curly hair around her face and a lovely coronet of red flowers with green leaves. Gesezlich Geschutzt is printed on the bottom of the stein. The result is a pleasant looking stein. I am very happy to have her in my collection.

There is a group of steins that have bodies similar to the above steins. The difference is in the color and the detail painting. They are decorated in brown instead of pink and there are less details painted. The head of these steins is covered with a hood. They all have the same marks on the base. These steins come in various sizes. You can see them in *Character Steins*, Eugene V. Manusov and Mike Wald, pages 167 & 168.

Another Munich Child stein without a head covering can be found in David Harr's Character Stein Book on the internet. Go to David Harr's web page, Character Stein Section, and then go to Munich Childs Pottery/Cream Stoneware, then Munich Childs Rows 4 stein 3. There you will find a different Munich Child stein with a head covering.

This new type of character Munich Child stein without a head covering makes an interesting addition to a collection.

Please look at the photos of both steins. Notice how much more detail went into the stein with no hood.



## *MEMBER NEWS*

**Bill Pasco:** Prosit to all Student Prince Members. I want to thank the Student Prince Group for the thoughtful Get Well basket you sent me via Les & Charlotte Whitham last December. I had heart surgery, getting an aortic valve replaced for the second time. Either the surgeons are getting better or the valves are improved, probably both, as I now feel better than I did after the first surgery 11 years ago. Many thanks for your good wishes.

Congratulations to **Ed and Carla Leboy** who are celebrating their first wedding anniversary on July 18. Ed and Carla have invited all Student Prince members to a special party on July 18 to help them celebrate this happy occasion.

### **ADVERTISING**

**Rick Grunin:** Serious collector pays cash for Royal Vienna, Overlay, Enamel and Opaline glass beer steins. Call 508-540-7525

**Bill Sullivan:** Wanted – Information and memorabilia about George Ehret and the former Hellgate Brewery of New York City. Call 203-881-1620

**NEW MEMBER:** Jennifer Mayer Garmin  
Monson, MA  
413-231-7791  
[wrdukefans@yahoo.com](mailto:wrdukefans@yahoo.com)