

# Die Golden Gate Zecher

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NACHRICHTEN

February 2010

## Our February Meeting in Alameda

The home of Marc and Maxine Seavers in Alameda will be the location for our February 20 meeting. Marc is a long-time collector which makes his home a pleasure to visit. Marc and Maxine's house also has an interesting history as well, so be sure to ask about it!

Our featured speaker will be coming to us all the way from Scotia, New York, which is about 15 miles north of the state's capital city of Albany. Bill Hamer has collected steins for over twenty years, but for the past seven has been collecting only Faience. His study and research of Faience has included the various manufacturers and



identifying characteristics, which will be the topic of this presentation. Bill is a knowledgeable collector who has become much in demand as a speaker. We are fortunate to bring Bill to our part of the country and learn more about the interesting world of faience pottery and how to identify the various manufacturers. Get your reservation in now, as you won't want to miss this presentation! *øggz*

*Photos from SCI website*

## 2010 EVENT CALENDAR

Feb 13 Erste Gruppe, Kellogg, Lake Elsinore, CA

Feb 20 GG Zecher, Seavers, Alameda, CA

Mar 5 Pacific Stein Sammler, TBD

April 24 GG Zecher Auction, Elliott, Vallejo, CA

June 4 Pacific Stein Sammler, Masenheimer

June 26 Erste Gruppe, Monterey Park, CA

Aug 21 or 28 GG Zecher - Open

Sept 9 -11 SCI Convention, Myrtle Beach, SC

Nov. 13 GG Zecher - Open

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*Happy New Year, 2010!*

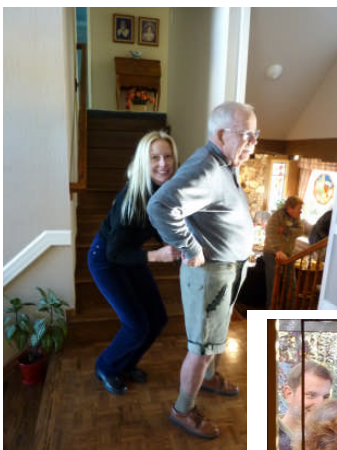
## Our November Meet at the Morris'

A dry and sunny day greeted us in Foster City which made our November meeting well-attended and a wonderful social occasion. Steve and Nancy Morris



provided us with a wonderful meal, as they always do at gatherings at their beautiful home. The garage was filled with steins and related objects offered for sale by members present, which resulted with many items going home with new owners.

The main order of business during our members' meeting was to elect Zecher officers and board members. Zecher President is Dave Lowry and VP is Steve Morris. All but the office of secretary was filled. We are fortunate that we have had volunteers step forward in past years to help in the administration activities of the Zecher organization. If you enjoy the organization and the camaraderie of our club, won't you consider offering your time and talent? We meet only four times a year, so the commitment is minimal.



Our featured speaker was our resident Master Steinologist Les Paul, who spoke and showed us many of his most unusual (and pricey!) character steins in his collection. Les passed those steins among us, which we all admired, and which made all of the character stein collectors among the group covet greatly.



Our thanks go to Steve, Nancy and Les for making our last meeting of the year a great event!

*dgz*

*Photos: Chuck Schoppe & Ken Wasson*

**Got Suggestions?** Have you wished to have a meeting program, presentation, or a newsletter article on something of special interest to you? If so, your suggestions for topics are welcomed! Send your suggestions to your newsletter editor, Chuck Schoppe, email: [zechernews@yahoo.com](mailto:zechernews@yahoo.com) or speak with any of your Zecher officers!

# As For Me, It's Dumler & Breiden!

By Dave Lowry

As collectors of historical objects, we can see into the past with something tangible, beautiful, and worthwhile when we hold it in our hands. We rejoice in the latest addition to our stein collections when Les Paul obtains that rare one of a kind character stein or early stoneware, when Steve Morris adds that long-sought after Schierholz stein, when Arvid Frende finds a 5L Diesinger from a recent stein auction. But, as for me, I get the same thrill and excited feeling when I call home to my collection that latest addition from Dumler & Breiden! Yes, it is not a "type" of stein that I am after, but rather it is a specific manufacturer. Why? Because, in my opinion Dumler & Breiden was among the best manufacturers of pottery and stoneware steins in history, especially their high-relief examples.

**History is a wonderful thing. The study and understanding of what came before is a true and enjoyable learning experience.**

Since I look at my collection from a historical perspective, how about some historical background on this manufacturer? The firm of Dumler & Breiden was founded in 1883 by Peter Dumler & Albert Breiden (also the nephew of Simon Peter Gerz), who were also brothers-in-law, in the town of Hohr of the Westerwald area of Germany (now known as Hohr-Grenzhausen), which was known for having rich deposits of clay.

Albert married Peter's sister and the two families shared the same large house that served also as the office for the connected factory. At the age of 14, Albert apprenticed with his uncle, Simon Peter Gerz for 10 years. Dumler & Breiden started producing steins in about 1890. Albert & Peter had both been born in 1860 and been friends since their school days. The Breiden family ran a mustard mill in Grenzhausen which was built originally in 1700. Local potters also brought clay there to have it crushed.

Peter Dumler was instructed for a time by Reinhold Hanke and then with Simon Peter Gerz before starting his own firm. He then became the foremost designer of D&B's early pieces, which included not only steins but jugs, bowls, ewers, figurines and vases. Many of the designs were in the "old German style" of old Teutons, biblical scenes, Romans, the Middle Ages, and Defregger scenes. And, he often had his initials of connected P&D looking like a "B" to the lower right of the body scene near the handle in the more intricate designs. They also produced at least three anti-Semitic steins (Not Holocaust, as this event took place many years later) and at least several character steins.

Of course Peter Dumler was not the only designer. Another prominent example is Henry Clemens van de Velde (1863-1957). In 1901-1902, he produced at least

28 models for Westerwald stoneware factories. And, in 1900-1914 he was influential in the Jugendstil (Art Nouveau) movement. D&B produced a series of steins during this time that are called Jugendstil.

Peter Dumler died in 1907 at age 47 and Albert Breiden sold his share of the firm in 1913. But, other family members had roles in running the firm in upcoming years. Albert went through different factory ownerships during the next years and died in 1926. The original firm then ceased operations in the 1950's. We know that later a series of original Peter Dumler designs in steins (both large and a mini series), decorative horns and goblets were reproduced by the Thewalt firm, which has just recently ceased operations.

How would we like to purchase some of these fine steins in a .5L size for the original price of 1.45RM (Reichsmark) without a lid or 2.40RM with a high steeple pewter lid or 4.00RM for a hand-painted example? I would love to get them still at such a price! However, it must be said that the present prices usually commanded for this manufacturer's wares are very fair, especially considering their quality and fine workmanship.

In terms of marks, we usually see a diamond-shaped mark incised onto the larger steins, along with the mold numbers. The most commonly used mark is the crossed swords with "D-B" at the bottom handle areas, used ca. 1883-1930. We also see examples of an incised mark of the "D&B" over the word "Hohr" inside a circle ca. 1900-1924. We also have a more rare "TS" under and through a three-sided box, which is found on the Terra Sigillata series of steins ("Terra" - Red earth / "Sigillata" - a smooth lustrous coating of clay which resembles a glaze, usually red and waterproof"). They usually have a distinct color green glazed interior.

What do these beautiful works of the stein art look like? How about a tall .5L high-relief mold #536 Cavaliers and Falstaff? (Seen at right) As stated earlier, their high-relief examples are superior. The original molds created a tightly visual example. The high-relief examples are often seen in monochrome, two colors, or in full color such as the example here. This stein has a hollow-base depicting monkeys and bulls but other versions have a different base or no base at all, creating a shorter .5L version.



*Continued next page*

There are examples seen where no artist's mark, manufacturer's mark or mold number are recorded, but we can tell they are likely Dumler & Breiden examples because of the common characteristics in the capacity marks and handles, especially.



The example at left shows a .5L high-relief mold #880 Falstaff and Monks in full color with a tan background. The hollow base is encircled by a ring of barrel ends. Other examples of this design have a grey or deep blue background color.

Other common examples are smaller .5L pottery steins such as the example below, Gnomes in Panels, mold #42: a cream with the usual dark red and green accent colors. The figures and filigree designs are very detailed and add to its attraction.



At left is a 2L mold #559 Hermann and Warriors, again in high-relief and in full color. A beautiful stein to display and learn about!



The example at right is a 5L King Solomon mold #355 in full color – a very large stein. An earlier antique example was produced but this is the post-war version, and still a very attractive stein!



The two examples above show the side view of .5L mold #39, Mismatched couples, in a blue salt glaze version and in the more common cream version.



Pictured here is the Roman Commander Frog .5L character stein, mold #27 in a blue salt glaze version. This one was also produced in a cream version and there is one known full color version.



Shown above is a 3L Sausage Thieves mold #41 in a bulbous body in full color. It has very tight and detailed scenes as can be seen. Even when we look at the areas where there is no picture telling a story, the detailing and colors are very vibrant and superior.

I hope you have enjoyed this information as much as I do. This is meant to be an introduction of sorts to the superior stein manufacturer Dumler & Breiden. There are MANY other examples and more articles are planned, including being more specific about capacity marks and handles found on D&B steins as well as "go-withs" such as bowls and vases. I am currently researching and planning on producing a definitive book on the Dumler & Breiden factory, steins, and related wares. If you have or ever come across ANY information on this very talented and superior stein producer, please contact me. As we all know, there are many worthy types, manufacturers and ages of steins and we all would like to collect and learn about every one of them! But, as for me, I eat, drink, dream and collect DUMLER & BREIDEN!

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# The Mystery of the Whites Utica Stoneware Stein

By Ron Fox

**... the subject matter is what would get past most collectors!**

At a first glance, the stein pictured, just appears to be a large stoneware stein. After picking it up, most collectors would realize it is Whites stoneware, made in Utica, New York. Of all the firms making steins in the United States at the turn of the century, Whites had the largest production of any other factory. The more important details about this stein are not so easily apparent. First it is a custom hand scratched stein, which in itself brings the price way up. The stoneware collectors call this technique "Lunch Hour" pieces. The reasoning was that workers made these artistic works on their own

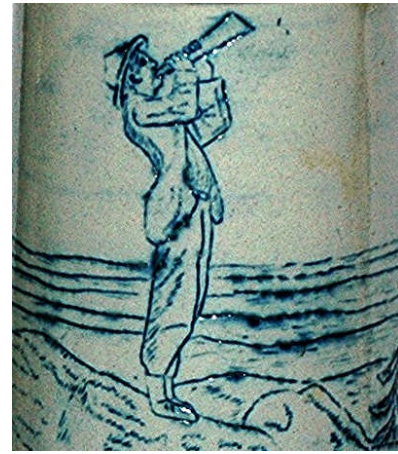


time and they were not for the general public. I personally do not agree with that reasoning, but rather believe they were made based on custom orders. The hand scratched technique allowed the firm the flexibility of quickly making a piece, without the extra time and cost of making molds. They simply took blank bodies, and hand decorated the customer's order. Regardless of the reasoning, these hand scratched pieces are highly desired by Whites collectors.

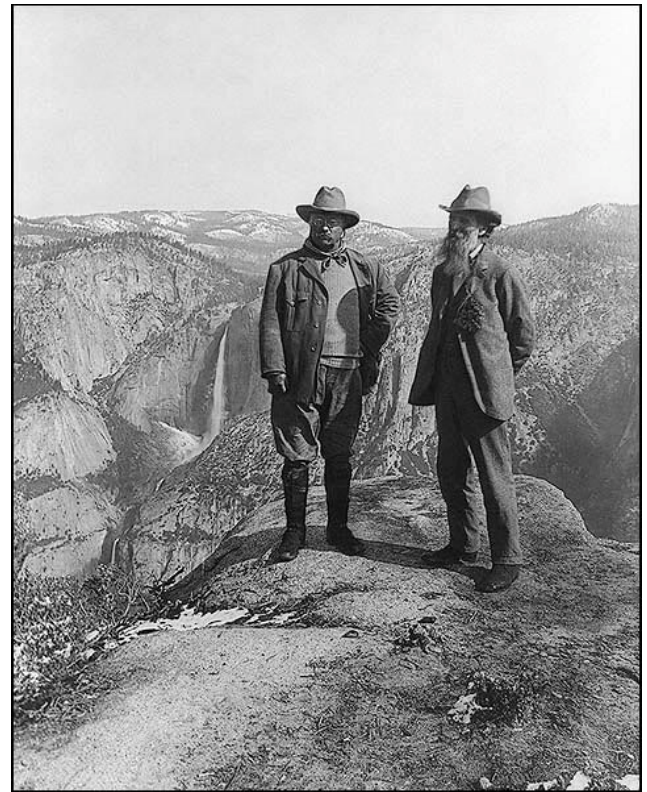


Now the subject matter is what would get past most collectors. It looks like two men outdoors, but after looking very closely, one of the men had a striking resemblance to Teddy Roosevelt. I knew of his conservationist work in developing our National Parks system, but who was this other man?

After surfing around on Google, that question was quickly answered. It was another great conservationist, John Muir!



It was another great conservationist, John Muir!



The scene depicts that historical meeting of Teddy Roosevelt and John Muir at Yosemite National Park. These two great men had a love for the great outdoors. They wanted to do everything in their power to keep wondrous areas like the Yosemite Valley and Yellowstone unchanged for future generations. Their desire has been successful to this day.

I have been collecting Whites stoneware steins for over 30 years. This custom hand scratched piece is the centerpiece of that collection.

*At our last meeting I made a promise to give our editor Chuck Schoppe an article for each issue of our newsletter for 2010. I want to encourage every Zecher to make a concerted effort to do the same. - Ron Fox*

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