



This object was a gift to me from my late mother in law. A Belgian friend who had helped my father in law escape back to the UK in the Second World War gifted it to my mother in law, Margaret. I would like to know more about the tankard.

Reply:

The mark is that used by the factory S.P.Gerz of Hohn-Grenzhausen in the Westerwald, one of the larger makers of so-called Steins. Date, around 1900. The making of blue and grey Westerwald salt-glazed stonewares was revived in the 1840s, using the same clays and techniques as the original late 16th-17th century wares, and soon became a big industry. At first the wares had been "historicist" and closely based on originals, but as the 19th century progressed the moulded decoration and shapes became debased until about 1900 when some handsome Art Nouveau-influenced tankards were made. "Steins" are much collected in America.