



On The LIGHTER Side

March 15, 2015

Vol. XXXII, No. 2

And Now A Word From Your Editor *Richard Weinstein*

So here we are, only about 3 months till the next convention.

The location, Memphis, TN should be a great draw. Lots to do there and any Elvis fan who has not had an opportunity to visit Graceland, should take the time to see this great monument to the King. But don't forget about the lighters! Bring your display of Elvis Lighters! And there are many antique areas in Memphis!



Since this newsletter is jam packed with information, including the Convention Letter, I will make this short. The main thing I want to say is that I hope many of you can make it. The more members who can attend, the more successful the show will be.

Don't forget that for the May issue, we usually reserve space so members who plan to attend can list the items they are hoping to find so please send in your want list so we can publish it so other members can start looking for lighters you are hoping to find.

Chairman's Message: *Guy Nishida*

Do you hear the buzz in the air? The 2015 annual convention is shaping up and the excitement is building. We have heard that at least one collection will be arriving to be sold and that a not-seen-before group of For Sale vintage Zippos will also be adorning a table. I am looking forward to

some sight-seeing and I hope you will all consider attending and soaking in the sights and sounds of Memphis, Tennessee. By the way, the latest news is that the Bass Pro Shop in the Pyramid has a May 1st grand opening scheduled so it will be open for business by convention time.

As mentioned before, there will be limited tables so get your reservations in as early as possible. All the details for the convention are in the registration instructions

Don't forget golfers, I need your participation confirmation by March 31st.

As a reminder, ZEN's founder Vickie Adele will be in attendance and will be bringing a nice selection of her wares for you Zippo Enthusiasts. If you like her Pin-Up Zippos, you'll certainly want to grab a convention lighter. She designed it. 'Nuff said until the unveiling.

There had been rumors circulating but it has been confirmed that Linda Meabon, our long and loyal supporter from Zippo Company has now joined the ranks of the retired. We understand that she will still be connected to Zippo in a part-time capacity and we wish her well as she and her husband travel to all the destinations on their bucket list. We have not heard of any official replacement and Zippo's participation in future club events is doubtful.

The Board recently invited Greg Ryman to join our ranks and suffer along with us. Being the masochist that he is, he graciously consented and we are grateful he will lend his talents to benefit the club. Please congratulate and thank him for serving us all.

Guy Nishida

A Message From Your President

Art Brooks

In the January Newsletter I noted that I was beefing up my Cigarette Advertising Lighter collection. Several members contacted me with offers to help grow my collection and reduce theirs. I have purchased about 20 lighters from OTLS members as a result. So my point is this is but one of the benefits of being a member of OTLS. Not only has my collection grown, fellow members were able to unload some of their extras without the eBay fees. We all benefit! I am still looking for a Players so if someone out there has one please give me a yell.

Our face book page continues to grow. WOW, since January we have grown by another 50 members and are currently at approximately 500 "Likes". If our club membership grew at that rate we would be in hog heaven. We need members to post photos and comments to continue the momentum. It is interesting the largest majority of those followers are still in the age group 34 to 45.

If you have any comments or suggestions please feel free to contact me at caymus99@sbcglobal.net

A Little More Information on Aluminum Lighters

by Judith Sanders

For a long time many collectors have looked for more information on the plain, aluminum lighters. For the most part, there is little or no information on these lighters. And in many cases, not even a company name on the bottom of the lighter. When you do find a manufacturer's name on the bottom, it immediately draws your interest since so often this is not the case.

Recently while looking through some old files, I found a couple of old magazine ads. It interested me to see that some companies would spend the advertising dollars to let people know about these lighters. Years later we are still wanting information. But I guess at the time they thought everyone would know who made their lighter. Curious anyway.

The first ad is for a Lorraine Lighter. To my knowledge this lighter was not marked. And, as you

can see, looks very much like many other aluminum lighters. The second ad is for a Duralite. Now I have seen a Duralite which was marked, but some of them are not marked.

So who else knows some of the brands that were available in Aluminum lighters.



LORRAINE LIGHTER

Streamlined, smart, sure-fire. Precision-made of gleaming hi-polish dural-aluminum. Triple capacity gives three times longer use without re-filling. Light weight: 1 1/4" x 2" x 7/16".

DISTRIBUTORS WANTED

Gross Lots or more Less than Gross Lots

\$12 Doz. **\$15 Doz.**



DURALITE

Automatic

WINDPROOF LIGHTER

\$6

featuring

FEATHER-TOUCH ACTION

IN ONE ACTION it opens and lights, instantly — even in a gale! Automatic-action lever responds to a mere flick of your finger with never-failing accuracy. Smartly streamlined . . . handsome as fine jewelry . . . thoroughly windproof — and a champion for fuel capacity (precision-engineered spring cap makes it practically evaporation-proof).

PARKROGER Semi-Automatic Lighter – c. 1928

Source: John Cornelius

Everett Irving Rogers Jr. noted in his patent application of 1928 that “an object of my invention is to provide a lighter which will not go out when subjected to a wind”, and reference to this feature appears on the bottom of the lighter. See US Patent Number 1,822,505, which was ultimately granted in 1931.

PARKROGER was a trademark of the Park Bros. & Rogers, a Rhode Island men’s jewelry maker founded in 1892 and went out of business in 1930. At that time they were most known for gold and gold-filled cuff links bearing the PARKROGER trademark.

The lighter is a well made slide switch activated semi-auto measuring 1.75 inch tall by 1.5 inch wide in chromium plating. I think it to be a bit rare as the company did not even survive until the patent was granted.



The RONSON Vault

by Urban K. Cummings

In this installment, we feature three lighters rarely seen before. If you think you notice water marks on the photos, it's because I drooled all over them when they were shown to me.

Photo #1 is a gorgeous watch lighter that I photographed many years ago. The dime in the picture gives you an idea as to its size. It is said to be marked Ronson. Per their usual methods, parts of this lighter, such as the snuffer cap, were probably on other models. You get to figure out which.

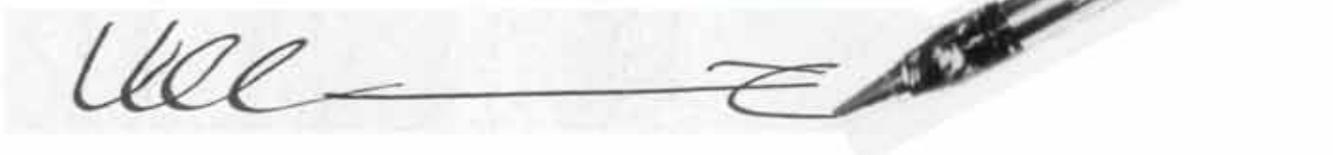
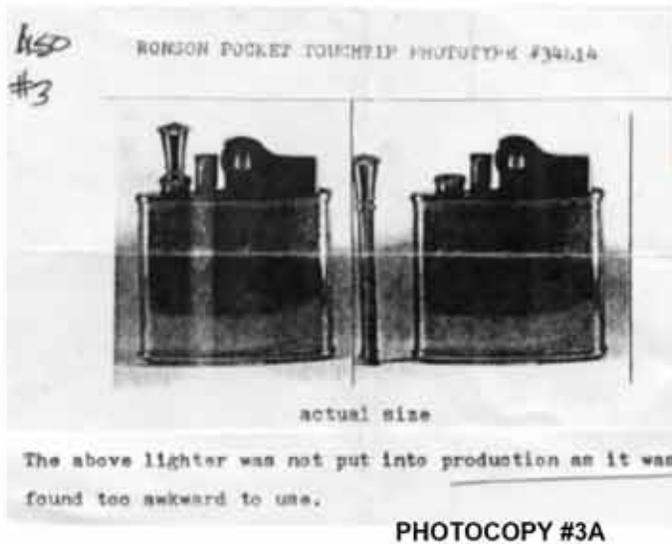


Photo #2 is a weird version of the "Whirlwind". Instead of the usual fuel and flint screws on the bottom, this trial balloon appears to have a "pull-off" case to re-flint and fuel. It is rather strange because once the case is removed, the pull-up wind guard feature is exposed. Looking at the photo, I wonder how it was held in place. Look carefully and you can barely see the flint screw showing on the bottom left of the lighter. Rather strange!



Photo #3A is actually a photocopy from a Jack Seiderman catalogue. It is self-explanatory and appears to be identical to the photo, **#3B**. This lighter is really bizarre. Would you believe a pocket touch-tip? It is a little larger than the Ronson "Standard" pocket model. The word on the street is that Ronson tried everything, and this is the proof.

Happy hunting!



My Latest Flame

by George Gynes

I Can see Clearly Now. The other VU Lighters.

There have been many excellent articles about the Scripto VU lighter, and to a lesser degree regarding the Ritepont Lighter, so I will exclude them from this article.

That still leaves us with some wonderful and innovative plastic, see-through, lighters that reveal their fuel content. The first one I am including in this article is an Alpair, made in Brazil. It has a strong resemblance to the Scripto VU. I have pictured it in-between a standard Scripto and a compact model. Its major difference is the “Bayonet” mount (push and twist) locking feature of the flint assembly. In the November 2011 Newsletter, Scott Beehler, wrote an excellent article regarding the Stratoliter by Paterson. I have pictured it next to a “Buescher’s” lighter. The dimensions and basic design are identical. Even the Manufacturer’s location; Kansas city , Missouri – for the Paterson and Washington, Missouri – for the Buescher, are in the same neighborhood.

The next interesting VU lighter is the Video Lighter. Made in the late 1940’s and advertised as the Video “Luxury” Lighter. They used an innovative “bladder” technology to equalize the pressure, due to change in altitude or temperature. Similar to what nature provided for the fish, to cope with changes of pressure at various depths. (This technology was also used by the famous “Biosphere 2” to eliminate the excess pressure caused by temperature change to its thousands of panes of glass.) The Video had two different snuffer arms, one traditional; lift up, the other, a swing out.

The DuoLITER has the distinction of having an adjustable wick height, consequently allowing the flame to be adjusted. An unusual feature for a petrol lighter. They did, also, make a non—adjustable version. However, they used the same plastic base, as is evidenced by the molding of its bottom.

I have also pictured a number of traditional single action VU lighters from Japan. They were made in the 1960s and some were used for advertisement. The blue-bodied one has no marking, but it has a

very unusual fueling system. The back pivot pin of the thumb piece is spring loaded. Pushing in on it allows the back to open up and underneath is the access for the fuel and flint.

It never ceases to amaze me, just how many sub collections of lighter can be enjoyed with a little digging around.

Happy lighter hunting to all. George



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My Latest Flame

by George Gynes

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My Latest Flame
by George Gynes

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My Latest Flame

by George Gynes

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Cigarette Lighters On the Ship of Theseus

by *Guy Nishida*

We've all fondled our warm fire-making devices and wondered who had used these lighters before us. Perhaps it was purchased at the estate sale of a celebrity. We wonder what famous person grasped this lighter and brought it close to their lips. Where had these lighters traveled? What events did they witness? They conjure thoughts of the Turn-of-the-Century, the Roaring 20's, the War Years and even more recent periods. Closer to home, we preserve our father's and mother's favorite lighter, the one they carried in combat, that special lighter given to us as a gift.

But sometimes our palm-sized collectibles can benefit mightily from repair and/or restoration. Their very existence could depend on it. This has always caused me some consternation. Do we leave them in the condition as found or recondition them? If we find a cigarette lighter on a battlefield caked with dried mud or years of grime, do we thoroughly clean it? Do we retain the soil from that conflict? Do we partially clean it? Are battle scars a badge of honor and better left as testament to its journey thru the years? In general, do we replace broken parts, re-leather, re-enamel or otherwise "improve" our flea market finds? Do we discard the damaged parts or retain them as historical records? Do we leave the warm patina that only time can create or polish it to its original out-of-the-box state? Once we engage in restoration, can we thereafter display the piece we inherited with a tag that reads: my dad's lighter?

There is a philosophical paradox named The Ship Of Theseus. In a nutshell, it ponders the question as to when an entity, in that case a ship but in our case a lighter, is no longer the same entity if it has undergone some transformation.

Theseus was a Greek mythological hero who slayed the Minotaur, among other great deeds. In his honor the populace endeavored to preserve his sailing ship. But over time, the planks of the ship rotted and weakened so they were replaced one by one. After continuous replacement, no original parts of the ship remained. Plutarch posed the question of whether it could still be considered Theseus's vessel.

Thomas Hobbes interjected a twist to the question - - what if the replacement of the entire ship took place at sea and the wood taken from Theseus' original ship was saved and later used to build a second ship. Which ship was Theseus? To further complicate the matter, what if the entire components of one working ship (essentially a twin) were exchanged one by one with the other ship upon which Theseus sailed over the course of the voyage. In this regard, he captained both ships during his travels.

As it relates to a dilemma upon which I have reflected, at what point have the replaced parts and restoration work done to a lighter altered it to the degree that it can no longer be considered the same lighter? I often view TV's Velocity Channel where auto restorers take the rotted body of a car that belonged to an older man who has owned the car since his teenage years. After scrounging for parts correct to the original, after recasting or creating identical parts, after repainting, rewiring, completely overhauling the engine and interior, they stand back in awe that they have returned his childhood car back to life. But can we really say this is so? Is there any difference in the provenance between purchasing an anonymously restored car from a vintage car lot (which might even have parts taken from the man's original car) versus having your personal restorer perform his miracle?

So, if I replace the wick have I crossed the line? If I insert the correct fill screw or snuffer cap can it be called the lighter I used as a young man? What if I remove all the original parts but replace a dented body with an identical undamaged body and add back all the original working pieces? Can I claim it was my old lighter? We treasure our lighters because like many of us it has survived the ravages of time and has seen use in an historical context. Its many parts, the molecules, the fingerprints left by people, the air, and the atmosphere of a bygone era are intact. If the lighter could speak, it could tell us what it saw and heard. What are the eyes and ears, the essence of the piece? It could be missing some pieces; it could have replacement parts. How many parts can be missing and which parts are too critical to be replaced without rendering the identity of the lighter as something other than the original?

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Cigarette Lighters On the Ship of Theseus

by *Guy Nishida*

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The Greek sculpture of Aphrodite of Milos, displayed at the Louvre Museum and known the world over as Venus de Milo, is famed and adored yet she is missing both her arms. Is she original? Is she better than the original? Is she in need of restoration (if we knew what the arms looked like)? Does it matter when the arms became detached? Did ancient Greeks consider Venus damaged while we may view her less critically? At this stage, would we have any desire or compulsion to restore her arms even if we had the knowledge because she is now simply a different work of art?

This author has no definitive answer to this conundrum but I hope it forms the basis for some lively conversation.

Guy Nishida



The Ronson book shows there were two different model Puritan lighters. One had a smooth or flat rim on the top, while the other had a berry or beaded rim on the top. In fact there were three models, just like the Decanter lighters, with the third having a "radiused" or rounded smooth top. This I assume as with the Decanters to be the latest model. I have enclosed a photograph of my three different Puritans and I hope that it will show up the differences when copied in the newsletter.

.....Joe Roseman

In Memoriam

WAYNE BURKEY

WE RECEIVED SOME VERY SAD NEWS THIS WEEK. OUR FRIEND WAYNE BURKEY, A LIFELONG LIGHTER COLLECTOR AND GOOD FRIEND FROM AUSTRALIA HAD PASSED AWAY SUDDENLY.

I HAVE KNOWN WAYNE FOR A FEW YEARS NOW, AND WE COMMUNICATED REGULARLY .

HE WAS BORN IN CANADA, AND LIFE TOOK HIM AND HIS FAMILY TO AUSTRALIA SOME YEARS AGO.

WAYNE ALWAYS TALKED PASSIONATELY AND WITH GREAT PRIDE ABOUT HIS FAMILY. HE OFTEN MENTIONED HIS WIFE ROSE, DAUGHTER LISA 21, AND HIS NEWEST CHILD BORN JUST LAST YEAR.



WAYNE WAS BORN OCTOBER 10TH 1959, AND WAS ONLY 55 YEARS OLD.

HE AND ROSE HAD BEEN TOGETHER FOR 17 YEARS AND HAD RECENTLY MOVED INTO A NEW HOME. ROSE TOLD ME TODAY WHEN SHE LOOKS AT WAYNE'S COLLECTION NOW IT GIVES HER STRENGTH, AND RECOLLECTIONS OF GOOD MEMORIES WITH WAYNE.

WAYNE HAD OTHER INTERESTS TOO AND WOULD OFTEN TALK ABOUT RAISING PIGEONS AND THE CAGES HE HAD TO CLEAN.

HE WAS A VERY PROUD FATHER, HUSBAND AND GRANDFATHER AND I ADMIRER THIS VERY MUCH IN HIM. THIS HAPPY, NURTURING PHOTO OF WAYNE IS HOW I FEEL WE SHOULD REMEMBER HIM.

WE WISH ROSE AND HER FAMILY STRENGTH IN DEALING WITH THIS TERRIBLE LOSS, AND BETTER DAYS AHEAD.

GOODBYE OUR AUSSIE/CANADIAN FRIEND YOU WILL BE DEARLY MISSED.

Ira Pilosof & all of us at OTLS (On The Lighter Side) Lighter Club USA



**GLLC Zippo lighter & Case knife show
July 17-18, 2015
Masonic Hall, 625 South Avenue,
Bradford, PA.**

Tables for GLLC members are \$30 per table. For information, please contact Bill Kolk at 616-997-6222.

Make checks payable to GLLC and send them to: Bill Kolk, 457 East Street, Coopersville, MI 49404

Friday - set up is 8 a.m.; open to public at 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Saturday - open at 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to public; at 1 p.m., there will be an auction

The Zippo Museum & Gift Shop will be open Friday & Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you have a Zippo lighter to be repaired, bring it in Friday at 9 a.m. and Zippo will try to fix it before they close for the day. If you have a Case knife for repair, it can be dropped off and it will be mailed back to you

Motels - mention GLLC and you will get a discount!

Best Western - 814-362-4501
Comfort Inn - 814-368-6772
Holiday Inn Express - 814-362-7090
Desoto Holiday House - 814-362-4511

CLASSIFIED ADS

Wands for most Ronson Touch-Tip & Table Striker Lighters. Also wands for Austrian Striker Lighters. New & Exact Dimensions - Professionally made by a Machine Shop. Color matched to your lighter to please the most discriminating collector. Special discounted price for OTLS Members @ 30.00 + 3.00 shipping. George Gynes (OTLS Member) e-mail gamma2002@gmail.com

FORSALE-LIGHTERBOOKS,ZIPPODIARIES & POSTERS. FOR A COMPLETE LIST, EMAIL OR CALL JUDITH OTLS@SUDDENLINK.NET OR 903.763.2795. REGARDING THE BOOKS - I HAVE A LOT OF DUPLICATE LIGHTER BOOKS. I PLAN TO SELL EACH ONE FOR \$15 (POSTAGE PAID) BECAUSE IT IS TOO MUCH TROUBLE TO LIST A PRICE FOR EVERY BOOK!

**NEXT ISSUE June 2015.
SEND ADS BY May 20, 2015.**



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