



May, 15 2024 Vol. XLI, No.3

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE



[FACEBOOK.COM/OTLSCIGARETTELIGHTERCOLLECTORSCLUB](https://www.facebook.com/otlscigarettelightercollectorsclub)

FOUNDED IN 1984 - THE LONGEST RUNNING
LIGHTER COLLECTING COMMUNITY IN THE WORLD!

And Now A Word From Your President



So close and not so far. June 6th is around the corner and so is our 36th convention. I commend all our members and our board for keeping the club going through all that has gone on over the past almost 40 years. It is through your efforts that the club remains.

Along with 36 years always comes with some sad news as many of our club members have passed on. We need to remind ourselves how these people have helped in furthering our cause of lighter collecting.

In order to provide content for our newsletter, we rely on the membership to provide interesting information so other members can learn about all types of lighters. This is the most important part of our club and that is to spread the wealth of information. Even if you are not a writer, just sending in photos of your lighter displays will provide our membership with the different ways to display lighters as well as enlighten them as to lighters they may have never seen. Remember, many of the lighter manufacturers were very local so some lighters found on the east coast were not popular on the west and visa versa. And when it comes to European made lighters, it may be even more difficult to see them for sale in the USA unless brought with families who moved from Europe to the USA back in the early part of the 20th century.

You will see in this issue a separate article which is a reprint of the article on Imco lighters as the author, Guy Nishida, noticed that some of the photos were out of sync with the descriptions so we have reprinted the article so you have the corrected information.

We hope to see as many of you as possible in Las Vegas.

Best to all,



Richard Weinstein

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

GLENN GRUSH
ED HOWELL
PAUL KIK
PRINCETON ANTIQUES BOOKSHOP
CHAD ROBISON
BRUCE RUSSEL
KEVIN WHITEHEART

WELCOME BACK

STEPHEN CLEGG
JOHN COLLETT
ED URLIK

ON THE COVER

Sterling Edition of the 2024 Convention Lighter.

Convention Lighter



We are pleased to announce our Convention for the this year!

This lighter was designed by Courtney Saul, who has designed other convention lighters for us. This year's lighter is the new 540 Color.



The cost will be \$40.00 each, plus \$5.00 postage (U.S. & Canada). Overseas members please add \$15.00 for addition postage.

Only 60 of these lighters have been ordered. Any member may order 1 of these lighters. If there are any left after the first orders have been filled, you can order more.

Since this is a limited run of lighters order yours now.

You can order from

OTLS
c/o ROB GIARRETTA
65 SIDNEY ROAD
ANNADALE NJ 08801

(Note: Don't call or email, just send money. He won't take orders by email or phone, just by mail with money. If you use Paypal, send an email so he will know you have done that. Rob's email is Rob523@aol.com

Our Paypal is payments@otls.com If paying by check, make check payable to OTLS.

As well as the convention lighters with the 540 wraparound, we also have ordered a limited run of 3 sterling silver lighters. We plan to have an auction for one of these at the Convention. Then we will draw names and ask each name if you want to buy one of the Sterlings at the auction price. You, of course, can say NO and we will go on to the next name.

In Memorium



Peggy Anne Sheils, age 79, of Saint Charles, Missouri passed away on Monday, April 8, 2024 in St. Charles, Missouri. She was born in St. Louis, Missouri on January 5, 1945 to Robert and Helen Sheils.

Peggy was an avid collector of Zippo lighters, especially slims. In fact when she first started that was all she collected and became known as the Zippo Lady. Peggy did discover that full size Zippos were just as pleasing as the slims. She quickly turned her passion for Zippos into one of the most prestigious Zippo collections in the hobby. Peggy was a friend to all collectors and wouldn't hesitate in giving a present of a Zippo to a newly met collector. Peggy was a very social collector and was a joy to meet. The hobby of lighters collecting will sorely miss the Zippo lady.

A Lighter and its Infamous San Antonio Connection



Contributed by Brad Barenblat

I love lighters that are personalized! Monograms, names, dates and salutations carved into a piece brings it alive and freezes it in a moment of time- this belonged to someone that thought enough of it to permanently mark it as theirs.

I recently acquired a lighter engraved with some San Antonio historical relevance- here's the story.

I was in a local jeweler's shop with my wife. We know the family that owns it, and she had a watch in need of repair. I had brought along a lift arm lighter that needed a small hole tapped, hoping that a jeweler could do it for me. While he was not able to fix the lift arm (his tools were all designed for softer metals) we got to talking about the fact that I collect old lighters. His wife piped up and mentioned that they had a very special lighter.

The jeweler's father ran a shop back in the day, and a regular customer had them order a Dunhill Foot Rule lift arm. It was engraved IKE WEST JR. FROM SOL WEST. My wife immediately recognized the family names, as they were a wealthy and highly visible clan locally. We were told that the lighter was never picked up by the buyer, so they held onto it through the years.

Sol and Ike Jr. were brothers. Their parents and uncles had made their fortune first in the cattle business, then in oil (the Texas version of the American Dream). Ike and his wife Sandra moved to Beverly Hills, where they lived the high life. By all accounts, Sandra loved the limelight and trappings that wealth afforded her.

Ike died under mysterious circumstances in a Las Vegas Flamingo Hotel room in 1968, at the age of 33. Sandra most likely died of an overdose of prescription medication in 1977, at the age of 38.



A Lighter and its Infamous San Antonio Connection



Contributed by Brad Barenblat

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Here's where the story gets interesting! In Sandra's will, she stipulated that she be buried in her white lace nightgown, reclining in the front seat of her 1964 Ferrari. The will was contested, but after a protracted legal battle, her wishes were ultimately carried out. On May 18, 1977 the funeral made national news. Sandra had been dressed in her favorite negligee, put in the front seat of her Ferrari and enclosed in a box measuring 10 feet x 19 feet x 9 feet. The box was lowered into a huge hole next to Ike's grave at San Antonio's Alamo Masonic Cemetery, then covered with cement to discourage looters. The grave is marked with a nondescript tombstone, with only her name and the dates of her birth and death.

A quick online search of her name returns multiple articles and videos about her life and unusual burial.

I am now the proud owner of this piece of San Antonio history!



Sandra Ilene West is shown in this file photo posing with her favorite Ferrari. She requested to be buried in her nightgown while sitting comfortably at the steering wheel of the car upon her death in 1977.

Express-News archives



In this May 1977 file photo, concrete is dumped on top of the crate in Sandra West's grave containing her Ferrari with West in the driver's seat, as she requested. Express-News file photo by Joe Barrera Jr.

News photos appear courtesy of Express-News and appeared in an article by Timothy Fanning, Staff Writer, Updated March 22, 2023



How I Started Collecting

Articles

Contributed by Bill Calkins, 2nd Generation OTLS Member

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Instagram: @wildbillspocketlighters

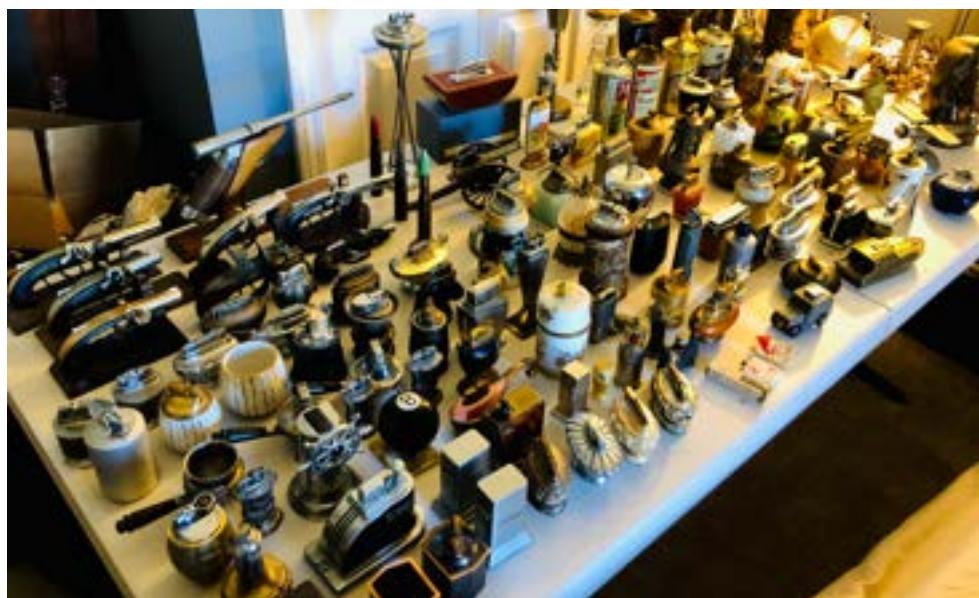
In early 2020, I had some free time because work travel was suspended, and pretty much all extracurricular family activities had come to a halt. I had sold some vintage bike parts for my dad on eBay and did well. He mentioned that if I ever wanted to try to sell his old lighters, I was welcome to dig the boxes out from the storage space under the steps in their house and have at it. As a few months passed and normal activities didn't resume, I went to their house and looked for the boxes—assuming there were a couple.

What I found was truly amazing. My dad had 11 large boxes packed with lighters, all wrapped in newspaper (1999 Cleveland Plain Dealers and Wall Street Journals, to be exact). I covered our guest bed in a tarp and set up two folding tables and started unpacking them. When the last box was empty, I stood back and stared at more than 600 lighters, about 400 pocket lighters and 200 table lighters.

This is where the story begins, really. I started researching them and quickly found Facebook groups dedicated to a few of the more popular types (Zippo, Ronson, Dunhill, IMCO) and OTLS.



Here are some of my dad's pocket lighters. His collection included lighters from around the world from the early-1900s through the 1980s.



My dad's table lighter collection was large and ranged from Ronson Touch Tips and Dunhills to more common Japanese styles.

How I Started Collecting



Contributed by Bill Calkins, 2nd Generation OTLS Member

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I immediately recognized OTLS because in one of the boxes of lighters was a stack of printed newsletters (OTLS and PLPG) from the 1980s and early-90s. Through these groups, I began connecting with collectors to learn enough not to be taken advantage of while selling. I sold about 100 to private collectors and resellers and then listed the rest on eBay one at a time at .99 cent no reserve starting bids. I researched each one so I could provide the most thorough item descriptions. This process took months but eventually all the lighters were sold, and my dad was VERY happy with how much they brought.

For me, I had gained a tremendous amount of knowledge about an extremely diverse range of lighters and had a solid grasp on values in the current market. I was by no means an expert, but I knew enough to begin buying and selling as a hobby. That's where I am now, a buyer, seller and collector of vintage lighters; completely immersed in the world of tobacciana and building my own collection that now exceeds 300—focused on Ronson petrol lighters, WW2 service models, Zippos engraved with my name and with greenhouse or nursery advertising and rope/wick lighters. I chat with folks about lighters every day, obsess over finding the correct boxes and geek out over vintage display pieces. I've made great friends and figured out to resell enough to fund my collecting.

Lastly ... Why Ronson, you may ask? While unpacking the boxes of my dad's lighters, I found four that are very special to me. My grandpa and grandma's Ronsons (Adonis and Princess, respectively) and my uncle's Pioneer. I also have a butane side roller with a digital watch face that my mom bought for my dad and had engraved with his initials.



I was thrilled to find my grandpa, grandma and uncle's personalized Ronsons in my dad's collection. They are some of my most treasured lighters

How I Started Collecting



Contributed by Bill Calkins, 2nd Generation OTLS Member

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My own collection is focused on WW2 service lighters, Ronson petrol lighters, Zippo's personalized with my name "Bill" and derivatives, Zippo's with greenhouse and nursery advertising and early rope/wick lighters.

How I Started Collecting

Articles

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Ronson makes up more than half of my collection

How I Started Collecting

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Thanks for the opportunity to share my lighter story and I appreciate all the collectors in this wonderful community! Feel free to reach out any time—I love to talk lighters.

You can email me at williamdc1976@gmail.com or find me chatting it up and posting pics in many of the Facebook groups.

I particularly like mid-century Ronson display pieces. This lighted display case came from a fellow collector in Wisconsin.



Animal Lighters



Contributed by Ryan Seagrist

Vintage figural animal-shaped lighters embody a whimsical charm, with examples spanning the breadth of the animal kingdom. Beyond their utilitarian purpose, they serve as conversation starters and collector's items, reflecting the craftsmanship and design sensibilities of bygone eras. Below are some examples past and present from my collection. Most were manufactured in Japan in the occupied period following World War II, but finer examples include models from Demley, Meb, and Myon. More to come in the next issue!



Burrow



Elephant - 1912

continued next page

Animal Lighters

Contributed by Ryan Seagrist



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Automatic Dachshund



Bear Skis



Automatic Terrier



Moose

Animal Lighters

Contributed by Ryan Seagrist



Continued from page 13



Alligator



Bull



Bulldog - Japanese

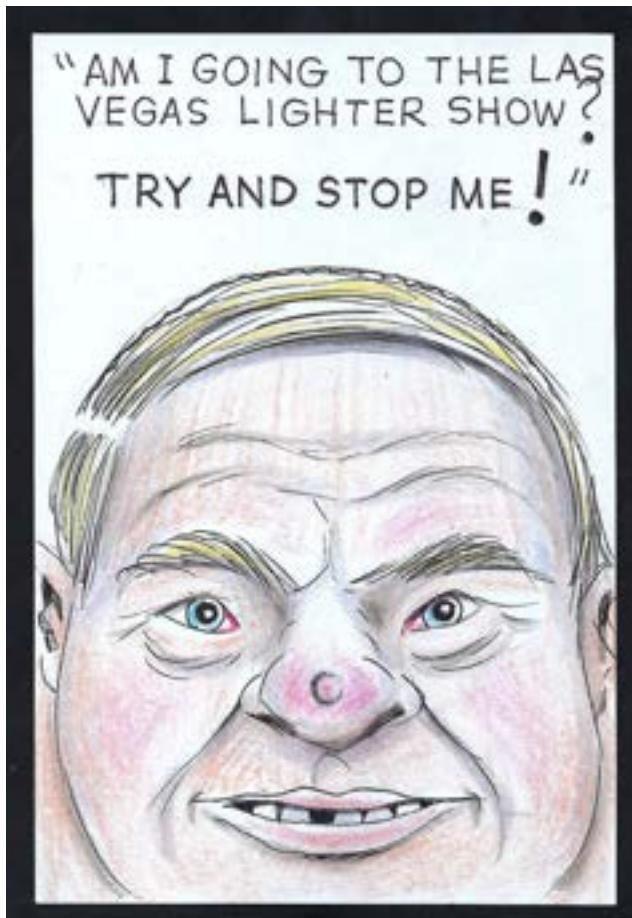


Amico - Donkey

CARICATURE



Contributed by John Engleman



CONVENTION UPDATES!

IMPORTANT! Regarding shipping your lighters, the hotel will allow you to ship one (1) package to the hotel free of charge. However it is important that you write in bold letters on the box "HOLD FOR (YOUR NAME)". If anyone needs to ship more than one box please call me directly Judith 505/433-530. Also they will ship boxes back home if we have labels. If you have a FedEx or UPS account please bring some labels. I will also get extra labels everyone can use.

And last, don't forget they do not have shuttles any more outside the airport. You will have to take a cab or Uber.

Classified Ads



Always looking for unusual MIOJ Lighters. Greg Ryman email gregryman872@msn.com

Interested in buying Mint in the Box Flat Advertising Lighters (that I do not currently have). Please send photos and prices to John Elster at Jresce@aol.com

I am in need of two OTLS convention lighters. Club Zippers for the 17th and the 22 conventions. These are for the years 2003 and 2008. Thank you in advance. Please call me at 609-805-8386 email: smstolar3@gmail.com If you live anywhere near Philadelphia I can meet you for the exchange. I will also buy you a nice lunch in addition to your payment. Thank you, Steve Stolar

Wanted Multi Color Enameled Ronson Atomizers, either table or pocket models. Also catalogues for Dupont Lighters. Contact Rich Weinstein at repairs@lighterrepairs.com

OTLS Convention Lighters for sale. Lot of 39 lighters. 1st thru 35 convention, 2 none-convention years, a second finish from 1998 convention and an OTLS Original 1932 Replication Zippo. Sell as one lot. Kenneth Burkblburk@att.net

ZIPPO insert repairs, cams and cam springs, flint tube replacement and a flint wheel replacement. Each repair/replacement is \$5 per item. Return postage also required. Send to Thomas Prylinksi, 2134 E 42 St, Erie, PA 16510 or email pyrotjp@tvc.com

Looking for European Pocket Lighters. Also looking for pocket lighters with pictures of cartoon characters. Please call or email Judith Sanders 505/433-5303 or JudithLQ@comcast.net

WANTED: Nudie lighters/naughty lighters, adult lighters, joke lighters, the naughtier the better! Contact Bill at (323) 829-9191. Tell me what you are looking for and I'll try to bring trading stock to the convention!

The Thorens Lighter Book is Here

This book is a Hard Cover, full size Coffee Table book with over 200 high gloss color pages containing over 400 pictures and illustrations, weighing a hefty 3.8lb . This is a must have for all lighter collectors, Art Deco lovers and all those who appreciate history.

Priced at \$175 per copy plus \$15 s/h in the USA. S/H costs to other countries will be quoted upon request. To order your copy please email ramzi@etp-inc.com or call/text (909)407-0248

NEXT ISSUE: July 15, 2024
SEND ADS BY: June 20, 2024
OTLSNEWS101@GMAIL.COM



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