



# On The LIGHTER Side

September 15, 2008

Vol. XXV, No. 5

## Thoughts From Your Editor

by Rich Weinstein

We are now in the 3rd quarter of 2008 and its time to take a look at the condition of our club and its future. This year we have had difficulty meeting the bills associated with our Vegas convention. Each year we try and anticipate the number of members attending shows and base our contract on that number. This year, we missed our base. We would appreciate our members letting us know what we can do to make it more enticing to attend a convention. Support of OTLS is not only based on the yearly dues but on the membership participating in club activities. Raising money to keep the club going is a necessity and remember, no board members or officers get paid for any of their work so 100% of what we raise from dues or other activities go to running the club.

Although we held a mail auction in the July

paper, neither of the items made the reserve which the board had set on these 2 lighters. These lighters were donated to the club and both are rare items. It is unfortunate that only 3 people bid on these beautiful lighters. This was for OTLS and we should have received a much larger response.

Please take note of John Cornelius's message below. Please take the time to respond to his inquiry so we can best judge the location of the next show.

We are all aware that times are tough and understand that costs involved in participating in conventions keep rising. So, if you cannot attend a convention, try showing your support by bidding on auction items or donating lighters to the club which we can sell on ebay or through our classified.

## 2009 Annual Convention

### *Where should we go?*

Obviously, this event requires much work and planning. First on the agenda is to decide upon a location. John Cornelius has accepted the task of investigating and evaluating various location options.

Suggestions you may have are welcomed and may be sent to John at:

**lighters2009@yahoo.com.**

# Vintage Lighter in Space – To 1933 and Beyond!

By John Cornelius



Some of you are aware of my passion for Regens lighters. Over several years I have managed to acquire a nice collection of art deco enameled versions. Thank you to all that have helped me in this endeavor.

More recently I became aware that a Regens lighter is sort of a “holy grail” icon for fans of the Battlestar Galactica TV show. So much so, “replicas” of the No. 100 Chrome model prop lighter have sold on Ebay for up to \$100 and part of an interview with the show’s Property Master (Ken Hawryliw) was devoted specifically to the history of this fan favorite.

The lighter was prominently featured in the story line of “The Hand of God” episode during the first year of the series and is now referred to as the “Joseph Adama” lighter. It even got a close-up!

Now I know what to do with all of these that I have bought “for the box and parts”...well, after I learn engraving.

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## A Question from an OTLS Member

“Here is a question from one of our members, Alice Hodges. I know some of our members are quite knowledgeable on this topic and we will be happy to print the responses in an upcoming newsletter as I am sure the response will be of interest to many of us. You may reply directly to Alice and please send a copy to [OTLS@vintagelighters.com](mailto:OTLS@vintagelighters.com) for inclusion in an upcoming issue.”

Hope you don’t mind fielding a question regarding a trench lighter I have. I recently bought one of those round “Gott Mitt Uns” brass lighters. This one is the common one, 2 inches in diameter, with the crown motif on both sides. I bought this one on eBay, and when I received it, I was surprised at how light-weight it felt in my hands. Also, the laurel leaf embossed collar, about a third of the way around, has what looks like a line from where this piece was in a mold. The two sides are slightly pulled away from the top where the wick and flint assembly are, and since it is not tight, this might increase the less solid feel this lighter has when held in the hand. The wick cover and flint assembly look right for an old lighter, and the lighter has

appropriate wear to the sides and edges.

I only have two other trench lighters. One is a lovely thing, crafted in brass and red copper in the shape of a dispatch pouch, complete with belt-and-buckle closure. The other is a standard coin-on-both-sides with a plain brass collar. Both of these lighters are heavy for their size, and feel really solid in the hand.

So, I am wondering, are those “Gott Mitt Uns” lighters being reproduced as modern copies? The brass it’s made of looks old enough to be right, and your hands smell right after handling it. I know without actually seeing it, you can’t say for sure, but I would like to know if you have run across any of these being made currently and sold as old.

Thanks for your time, and in advance for any answer you send! I didn’t pay much for this lighter, so if it’s not from the WWI era, I haven’t lost much!

Best regards,  
Alice Hodges

## **Zippo and Collectors are going Mad! For Mad Men, that is...**

Contributed by Larry Visbisky  
Marketing Coordinator

Mad Men, an AMC original television series, takes place in 1960 New York and follows the lives of the men and women in the ruthlessly competitive world of advertising with characters who use their Zippo lighters extensively. Last year when the producers requested a quantity of lighters to be used as props, Zippo was happy to fulfill their request.

The popularity of the show has resulted in excellent exposure for Zippo. Mad Men snagged two Golden Globe Awards in its first season for Best Actor and Best New Drama. If that wasn't enough the first season has been wrapped up in style, literally. Partnering with Zippo, Lions Gate Television has created a limited edition season one DVD set that houses the DVDs in packaging shaped like the Zippo Lighter. The four disk set includes all 13 episodes and a special offer for two accompanying Zippo lighters.

The collectible lighters boast the Mad Men logos; the first is a classic Satin Chrome lighter packaged in a black cardboard box with foil Zippo logo. The second lighter is a high polish chrome lighter, limited to 1000 pieces, individually numbered and packaged in a Zippo velour box.

The lighters and DVD set are available at the Zippo/Case Visitors Center and online at [ZippoCase-Museum.com](http://ZippoCase-Museum.com).



# A Horse of a Different Color

by John Cornelius

(1) It was with great excitement that I happened upon this lighter on Ebay while trudging through 100's of listings of "old lighters". Though obviously an Austrian version Regens, it had not been listed as such. Still not so unusual. I have some marked "Club", others only marked with Made in USA and the Patent number, a few simply marked in a circle "Patent Austria".

(2) This one had its box and that is where it got interesting. The name on the box is "Le Dauphin", and thus how the lighter was listed. This alone made it a "who cares about condition, I must have" lighter. Alas, this is a sad tale and I will get to that later.\*

(3) From the pictures, we can see that it has the distinction of versions made in Austria. Round, rather than slotted, windscreen openings. Also, from the box, we can see that it has the one piece removable fuel cylinder most often used on the Austrian versions (though a very few early US models had this as well). But it does not have the round maker stamp found on Austrian versions and the straight-line mark seems shorter than that used on US versions. It also has a French tax stamp.

(4) Thus appears to be an earlier "Regens" lighter made in Austria specifically for the French market.

\*OK, here is the sad part. Of course I bought the lighter, and for a "song", from a great Ebay seller in England. The bad news is that it has apparently been lost in transit. DAMN! Thus, all I have of this find is the pictures from the seller's listing and my few dollars back.



(1) A USA made version. This one marked "Club" with Regens Patent Number.



(2) "Le Dauphin" Regens Lighter



(3)



(4)



# My Obsession - Ivan Rendell

## Not All Lighters Are Pretty

Ivan Rendall is this week's passionate collector. He has the biggest collection of cigarette lighters in the Northern Territory, if not the whole of Australia.

He has almost 2800 of them - not bad for a man who doesn't even smoke! It all started 20 years ago with a "nude lady" lighter. But, sadly, this unique collection is under threat!

All Ivan's lighters are displayed in cabinets. It was 1986 when he really started to collect lighters. Wherever he was working at the time he would pick them up and clean them and eventually built showcases to store them all. He collected the lighters from restaurants, supermarkets, take away shops, service stations, hotels and clubs - just to name a few!

All his friends and family would pass lighters onto Ivan and he even has strangers contacting him offering him their lighters! Sometimes he finds people have just dropped them off in his letterbox.

He has many novelty lighters and also the smallest and largest lighter available. The James Bond gun lighter is Ivan's favorite, it is the most expensive in his series as it is gold plated and came from the USA.

Ivan's wife has threatened to dump all the light-



ers and fill the cabinets with glass and crystal wear! She wants them out of the lounge room at least!

In 1932 Zippo manufactured the first wind proof lighter. 30% of Zippo lighters are sold to non smoking lighter collectors.

In 1973 BIC released the disposable cigarette lighter - they currently sell 4 million lighters per day!

*"Reprinted with approval of the Production Team at ABC Collectors from their web site [collectors@your.abc.net.au](mailto:collectors@your.abc.net.au) and brought to our attention by John Cornelius."*

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## Now You See It —Now You Don't!

by John Cornelius

Several years ago I found a lighter at a flea market that was in near mint condition. At the time, this alone made it an unusual and exciting find. Flea markets nearby then more resembled yard or junk sales than collectible shows as one finds today. So, most of the lighters I found were "worn" in some manner and there were few of them since they were not perceived as valuable.

The lighter was wrapped in a leather "like" covering and had what appeared to me a logo for some non-descript company. Otherwise it seemed like many other lighters that had been made in Japan in the 1950's. I took it home and placed on a shelf. A few weeks later I noticed that the company's logo had disappeared. Of course, I was intrigued and briefly a bit mystified. The lighter had been filled with fluid when I purchased it, so I refilled it and there I was staring at, not a logo, but an "OK" with a meaning that had now become quite clear. It's a fluid level indicator in which the letters seem to appear like magic as the lighter is filled. The effect is accomplished by a material that changes color from white to green as it absorbs the fuel, while the letters have been treated so as to be non-absorbent.

The lighters are marked on the bottom "Hilton Lite Corp. San Francisco REGULAR" and are stamped "Ja-

pan". The only reference that I have otherwise found to the company is regarding having joined an unsuccessful lawsuit filed in 1952 by the Japan Lighter Manufacturer's Association, charging that Ronson was monopolizing the automatic lighter market in the US.

On the left is that lighter I found several years ago. I do not know what it might have been called at the time other than Regular, but I will dub it here as the "Magic Fuel Eye" lighter.

Is this lighter the inspiration for the Japanese made Evan's Eyeliter, a butane lighter from the mid-1960s?



*Two Hilton Lighters*

# TESTING YOUR LIGHTER KNOWLEDGE!

## *Lighter Slogans*

by Bob Gamboni

Market researchers have known for a long time that slogans sell product. Lighter manufacturers were no exception to this rule. Although lighter collectors probably don't spend much time actively rehearsing these slogans (except perhaps for the make of lighter they collect), it will be fun to see how many lighters you can match with their slogan. Here is a somewhat out-of-order list of makes of lighters and their slogans. See how well you do in matching the Lighter with its correct Slogan. Good luck! (The performance scale and correct answer key are at the bottom of the list.)

### SLOGAN

1. A Flip and It's Lit - Release and It's Out
2. Signals The Eye - Before It's Dry
3. A Ready Light Day or Night
4. Rolls To Work
5. Lets You Know When The Fuel Is Low
6. Sure as Time
7. Quality & Endurance Without Extravagance
8. A Light Without A Match
9. Press the Button and You Get a Light
10. Lights in the Wind
11. No wind can blow it out
12. Quick As A Flash
13. Zip - It Lights
14. It Lights Everytime - The First Time
15. A Sure-Fire Lighter That's Sure-Fire To Lite
16. A Light Without A Match
17. A Week's Trial, Then All The While

### LIGHTER

- A. Perfecto
- B. Scripto Vu-Lighter
- C. Nassau
- D. The Essenjay Lighter
- E. Ritepoint
- F. Mars
- G. Novitas
- H. Napier
- I. Parkroger
- J. Zippo
- K. Regens Stormliter
- L. Rolls Lighters
- M. Wright
- N. Ronson
- O. Demley
- P. Thorens
- Q. Master-Lite

NUMBER RIGHT	PERFORMANCE
12-17	Excellent
6-11	Good
0-5	Poor-Fair

(Correct matches: 1-N, 2-B or E, 3-M, 4-L, 5-B, 6-O, 7-K, 8-P, 9-A, 10-I, 11-Q, 12-H, 13-G, 14-D, 15-F, 16-C, 17-J)

# NET NEWS

September 2008

Contributed by Larry Tolkin

Shown are a few rare lighters sold on ebay in the last few weeks. note the rare figural car lighters retailed by Dunhill.



*Abdulla Watchlighter - \$850*



*Dunhill MG Car Painted Lighter - \$1,440*



*Ronson Hall Scott Touchtip in Box - \$391*



*Dunhill 14K Case Lighter Combination - \$4,550*



*Zippo 1940 Lockheed MIB - \$2,100*



*Dunhill Electric Race Car - \$4,300*



*Dunhill MG Car Lighter - \$1,150*

# Chinese Snuff Bottle Lighters

by Ira Pilosof

Chinese snuff bottles and the powdered tobacco which they held were the heart of fashion in China from the mid 1600's until the early 20th century. Tobacco was forbidden in China in the 1600's but snuff was acceptable because of its believed medicinal qualities. Because it was considered an effective remedy for colds, headaches and stomach disorders, powdered tobacco was dispensed in a bottle, as other medicines were in China. Because of the variety of styles, techniques, and materials in these small objects, and the amazing craftsmanship used to make them, they have remained an important collectibles for hundreds of years now. Although "snuffing" has long died away, there are a large number of collectors throughout the world today who are fascinated by these small exquisite objects.

When the use of snuff diminished in the early 1900's, many of the bottles were converted for other uses. They were ideal for conversion into lighters, perfume containers, scent bottle and vinaigrettes.

The bottles had certain characteristics which made them ideal for this. They are air-tight and do not have a taste or odor to their contents. They are small and can be easily carried in a pocket. They are easily refilled and can be comfortably held in a hand. They are very sturdy and were generally quartz, jade, ceramic and chalcedony. Lastly they are truly works of art.

For these reasons jewelers in Europe such as Faberge, Cartier and Henry Birks devised other uses for these attractive containers. I found a few companies in France who converted snuff bottles into lighters. Cartier, Maquet and Gallice are among the French jewelers who produced these lighters. Between 1898 and 1929 Cartier Paris converted 100 snuff bottles into perfume bottles. It was later in 1929 that they converted ten bottles into lighters. These were custom made and often ornamented with diamonds, rubies, enamel and lacquer. These friction lighters which we call striker lighters were converted as follows. The stopper on top of each bottle was attached to a long stem which held a small spoon. A hollow metal stem replaced this spoon. On bottom of jar a flint holder

was attached. Inside the jar was cotton wadding soaked with fuel, which at that time was kerosene or gasoline.

Cartier also produced a small number of wheel and wick lighters which are extremely rare to find today and most likely in collections in France. While I did come across many Chinese snuff bottle conversions in other countries, it was only France where snuff bottles were adapted into lighters with the exception of one Japanese/American company.

This other company I came across was Yamanaka, a 200 year old company from Japan which expanded in to the United States in the early 1900's. They specialized in works of art from the Far East which included snuff bottle conversions. The company was forced out of business after Pearl Harbor and at a Parke-Bernet auction in NYC in 1944 there were a few Yakahama snuff bottle lighters.

I sincerely hope that dealers and collectors of these snuff bottles will not dismantle these conversions and will leave them intact for lighter enthusiasts such as us to enjoy for many years to come.





# Chinese Snuff Bottle Lighters

(continued from page 8)



Bottom Of Green Bottle



Dunhill Snuff Bottle Lighter

Photo By Permission Of The Lighter Club Of Great Britain



Bottom Of Ornate Metal Bottle



Green & Black Glass



Chalcedony Quartz Bottle



Green Glass



Bottom Of Chalcedony Quartz Bottle



Three Snuff Bottle Striker Lighters

# Chinese Snuff Bottle Lighters

(continued from page 9)



Ornate Metal Bottle



Yellow Ceramic Lighter



Red Glass



Yellow Ceramic Lighter



Red Glass Striker Lighter



Yellow Ceramic Lighter



White Jade Red Stopper



Yellow Glass

# CLASSIFIED ADS

## FOR SALE OR TRADE

**FOR SALE: TWO 30th ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL OFFERS FROM THE STUDIO:** Save 20% when you buy all 5 Issues of the Innovate ZIPPO Heritage Series using Coupon Code **KHA2008**. Save 30% on over 400 models in our newly updated Discount Outlet using Coupon Code **STUDIO30**. <http://StudioShowroom.com/zippo/>

**RONSONS FOR SALE:** T/T & Watch combination, Fig. 182, black, ivory colored rim. \$400; T/T Desk Set, Fig. 191, tortoise & dureau. Two pen sockets, pens not included \$800; Bookends, Art Metal Wares, circa 1930, "The End of the Trail," polished gold & enamel \$100; Bookends L.V. Aronson, circa 1920 "Roses in an Urn," polished gold & enamel \$200. Call or email Al Grosskopf [grosskopf@usfca.edu](mailto:grosskopf@usfca.edu) or (415)422-6698.

**FOR SALE:** Wands for most Ronson Touch-Tip & Table Striker Lighters. Also wands for Austrian Striker Lighters. New & Exact Dimensions - Professionally made by a Machine Shop. Brass or Stainless Steel available for \$30.00 + \$3.00 shipping. Call George Gynes (OTLS Member) at 800-379-3415 or e-mail [califfia01@gmail.com](mailto:califfia01@gmail.com)

**FOR SALE:** I have placed some items for sale in a special section on my website, with the proceeds to be donated to OTLS. Please take a look. You might find something you like and help out the club. The site may be reached by clicking on "JC's Vintage Lighters" on the LINKS page of the OTLS website.-John Cornelius.

One 1990s Zippo Display Case for sale. Like new condition. Measures: 12 1/2" X 12 1/2" X 27 1/4" High. Holds 40 Regular Size Zippo Lighters. 100.00 + shipping to your location. Contact Paul Rowan @ [touchtip@optonline.net](mailto:touchtip@optonline.net)



## FOR SALE OR TRADE

**FOR SALE:** COLLECTION OF FLUID CANS AND BOTTLES, BRYANT AND MAY CATALOG WITH SUPPLEMENT. ORIGINAL RONSON BANJO IN BOX AVAILABLE FOR SALE OR TRADE. CALL OR E-MAIL GUY AT: 310 215-1951 AND [btrade@ca.rr.com](mailto:btrade@ca.rr.com) "And You Thought Zippo Only Made Lighters"

If you still haven't ordered the amazing book, *And You Thought Zippo Only Made Lighters!* by Michael Grimaldi, it is easy to order online or by mail. Plus, for a limited time, OTLS members will receive a 15% discount. Simply enter OTLS in the coupon code section to receive the discount. Even if you only collect Zippo lighters, this new book contains plenty of "crossover" sections that discuss lighter finishes, lighter imprinting methods, the creation of the art and the most published information to date on Zippo Canada. Both casual Zippo collectors and the most experienced are sure to find this book chock full of interesting things that you never knew about Zippo.

Please visit [www.ZippoBook.com](http://www.ZippoBook.com) to learn more and place your order, or for domestic orders send a check in the amount of \$38.95 to: Wolverine Press, PO Box 974, Clifton, NJ 07014

**For Sale:** As the new Convention Lighter Chairman, I would like to clear out some of the old Convention lighters. For Sept. and Oct. only I will sell the remaining 2007 Convention Lighters (Washington DC) for \$22.00 each (postage paid). Please send your orders to me. Tom Jones (573)345-4241 or e-mail (Note: Please make your checks payable to Tom Jones so he can actually cash them. Do not make them payable to OTLS.)

## WANTED:

Always looking for mint Town & Country Zippos...Will buy or trade..fire. [goddess@charter.net](mailto:goddess@charter.net) Thanks...Peg Sheils

**Who sold me the LBJ Lighter? Also who sold me the Zippo with the tiny chili pepper. Thanks, Judith (903)763-2795 or [otls@suddenlink.net](mailto:otls@suddenlink.net)**

## WANTED:

**If you bought the big flashlight at the convention, please let me know. I have the Zippo "sleeve" that goes with the flashlight. Thanks, Judith [otls@suddenlink.net](mailto:otls@suddenlink.net)**

**WANTED:** Enameled Regens lighters in Art Deco patterns. Seeking excellent or mint condition lighters. I am particularly interested in those with Green enamel or green table model bases. E-mail John Cornelius at [jlighthers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jlighthers@sbcglobal.net).

**Will pay \$150 for a solid red ELLIS Bakelite Table Lighter** in excellent++ condition. thanks John Elster 336 721-0508 [jresce@aol.com](mailto:jresce@aol.com)

**WANTED:** UNUSUAL MECHANISMS, SCRIPTOS AND OTHER VU LIGHTERS, AND EARLY FIREMAKING DEVICES AND EARLY LIGHTERS OF ALL BRANDS. UNCOMMON RONSONS, DUNHILLS, EVANS, MIOJ, AND EUROPEAN LIGHTERS ALSO SOUGHT. WILL BUY OR TRADE SINGLE PIECES OR A COLLECTION. CALL OR E-MAIL GUY AT: 310 215-1951 AND [btrade@ca.rr.com](mailto:btrade@ca.rr.com)

**WANTED:** Ronson Bartender or Barmaid Touch-tip Lighter. Please call Ira at 201-797-6595 or e-mail [vintageptr@aol.com](mailto:vintageptr@aol.com)

**WANTED:** Loss-Proof Zippo boxes, old or new. Dana & Robin Baumgartner [rbdabber@mchsi.com](mailto:rbdabber@mchsi.com)

## LIGHTER COLLECTIONS WANTED:

If you have a collection for sale and would like some assistance with how to proceed please give me a call. I am willing to purchase a collection, or discuss other options with you. Thank you. Ira Pilosof e-mail [vintageptr@aol.com](mailto:vintageptr@aol.com). Phone 201-797-6595

**WANTED:** Zippo #350 Engine Turned MIB patent #2032695. Buy or trade. Please contact Jim Anderson (530) 666-4657 or [lights.out@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lights.out@sbcglobal.net) or PO Box 72671 Davis CA 95617.

## **In Memory**

Sarah Bond, 23-year-old daughter of Jack and Elizabeth Bond, was killed in an accident in New Zealand, while on a biking vacation.

Our sympathy goes to Jack and Elizabeth and their other two daughters, Caroline and Alexandra, during this most difficult time in their lives.

Jack Bond is a long-time member and Officer of Lighter Club of Great Britain and a friend to many members of OTLS.

**NEXT ISSUE NOVEMBER 2008.  
SEND ADS BY OCTOBER 20, 2008.**



On The LIGHTER Side  
International Lighter Collectors

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**JUDITH SANDERS  
P O BOX 1733  
QUITMAN TX 75783-1733  
U.S.A.  
PHONE: (903)763-2795  
WEB PAGE: <http://www.otls.com>**