



On The LIGHTER Side

May 15, 2009

Vol. XXVI, No. 3

And Now A Letter From Your Editor

Richard Weinstein

Only 1 month until our OTLS 2009 Convention! How time flies. A lot has happened since the last issue, the most important being the cancellation of the Zippo Swap Meet. The economy has affected almost everyone, including one of the great companies of this USA. With this news, it is even more important to attend this years OTLS convention. Our turnout this year is better than expected. Many members who have not attended in the past have planned to attend this year. Whether it's due to the cancellation of the Zippo Swap Meet or the location of this years show in Cleveland, we welcome all. Lots of surprises this year and yes, Zippo will certainly be attending and bring all those great items for the OTLS auctions to help the club. Hopefully all who have planned to attend have sent in their reservations with Judith and with the hotel so everyone who wants to come will be able. Due to the better than expected turnout, rooms and tables may not be available if you wait until the last minute. Woops, it is the last minute. Hurry up! Remember, you can only get a 2009 Convention lighter if you reserve yours now or as supply lasts. See you all at the show. *Rich*



2009 CONVENTION LIGHTERS

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE OUR CONVENTION LIGHTER FOR THE 23RD ANNUAL CONVENTION. THANKS TO JEFF BOSWORTH & AMY DeGOLIER & ROBIN PAVONE AT ZIPPO MANUFACTURING FOR ALL THEIR HELP.

THIS YEAR'S LIGHTER IS HIGH POLISH CHROME. THE COLORS ARE RED, BLACK, WHITE & YELLOW. FOR YOU WHO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SEE THE LIGHTER IN COLOR. IF YOU DON'T RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL, I WILL TRY TO GET THE PHOTO PUT ON OUR WEBSITE – CHECK WWW.OTLS.COM

THE COST WILL BE \$37.00 EACH, PLUS \$2.00 U.S. & CANADA SHIPPING & HANDLING. OVERSEAS MEMBERS PLEASE ADD ANOTHER \$3.00 FOR POSTAGE.

ONLY 100 OF THESE LIGHTERS HAVE BEEN ORDERED. YOU MAY ORDER IMMEDIATELY. YOU CAN ORDER AS MANY AS YOU WANT, WITHIN REASON.

SINCE THIS A LIMITED RUN OF LIGHTERS, ORDER YOURS NOW.

IF YOU WISH TO PICK UP YOUR LIGHTER AT THE CONVENTION, PLEASE INSERT A NOTE WITH YOUR ORDER. FOR THOSE OF YOU NOT ATTENDING THIS CONVENTION, PLEASE ORDER NOW. I WILL SHIP THE LIGHTERS AFTER I RETURN HOME FROM THE CONVENTION. AFTER THE CONVENTION I CAN'T GUARANTEE THERE WILL BE ANY LEFT TO SELL.

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:

TOM JONES, LIGHTER CHAIRMAN
76 ALLEY LANE
CLIMAX SPRINGS, MISSOURI 65324
PHONE No. 573-345-4241

**SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED
ORDER YOURS TODAY!**

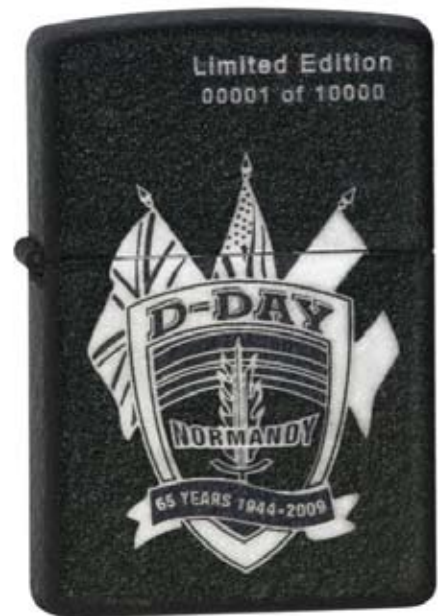


ZIPPO HONORS THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

ON JUNE 6, 1944, 160,000 ALLIED TROOPS LANDED ALONG A 50-MILE STRETCH OF THE FRENCH COASTLINE ON THE BEACHES OF NORMANDY, FRANCE AND THE WORLD WAS FOREVER CHANGED.

ZIPPO HONORS THE BRAVE SOLDIERS WHO SERVED WITH A BLACK CRACKLE™ LIGHTER REMINISCENT OF THOSE CARRIED DURING WORLD WAR II. THE LIMITED EDITION ZIPPO LIGHTER IS LASER ENGRAVED WITH THE SHIELD DESIGN ARM PATCH WORN BY THE ALLIED TROOPS AND ANNIVERSARY DATE. COMMEMORATIVE IS LIMITED TO 10,000 CONSECUTIVELY NUMBERED PIECES WORLDWIDE.

A MILITARY STAPLE DURING WORLD WAR II, THE ICONIC ZIPPO LIGHTER WAS NICKNAMED THE GI'S FRIEND BOTH FOR ITS RELIABLE PERFORMANCE AND AS A TANGIBLE REMINDER OF HOME. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ZIPPO'S CONNECTION TO THE U.S. MILITARY VISIT THE "ZIPPO IN THE MILITARY" SECTION ON ZIPPO.COM.



Open Letter from the Board Regarding the Convention Costs

In response to an inquiry sent to the Board concerning the cost of the Convention, we would like to make a public response in case there are other members who are interested.

If you put our convention in context with other events you could attend, or purchases you could make, you may find our costs are comparable, and, in many cases, offer a greater return. We don't have to tell you what is included in our Convention Package, but one of our Board members recently attended a Van Morrison concert with their better half and it was about \$100 a piece for a couple of hours (and that did not include \$20 for parking). Dress slacks or outfits for the office with alterations will set you back \$150.00. The price of an average round of golf for a day or skiing with food, etc. is an easy \$75.00. A dinner for two without wine at a nice restaurant, including tip, is over \$100. Movies in the city are \$12.50 plus parking for a couple of bucks; add popcorn and a drink, and the price per hour of entertainment is steep.

The females reading this can attest to the cost of a purse, perfume, cosmetics, or a hairdresser. In any event, you get the point. For a 3 day affair with dinner, the per hour fun value of our conventions is actually quite cheap - - and we throw in coffee and drinks. We've all gone to flea markets and bought a couple of \$25.00 lighters only to bring them home wondering why we spent the money.

But the reality is that this hobby, like any other, is

for people who have disposable income enabling them to buy stuff they can't really use and don't really need. And like everything else that is not an essential part of life, it is for ALL (who can afford it). But, compared to other ways of spending money, equal value is there and, from that sense, it is not a rip-off.

These days, with travel costs, it is very difficult to meet expenses by selling at any collectible convention. That is not our motivation to come nor is it the motivation for most we know who come. It is the price of a vacation and the price of renewing and strengthening friendships. Convention attendees simply love lighters! If one is only interested in coming for profit's sake, we suggest that your marketing efforts be restricted to avenues more appropriate - - like a large paid ad in the newsletter or even on our club website when we have that feature.

The club is not to blame for the difficult economic business climate, nor is it the club's duty to price the show in tandem with the necessary profit margin and expected incomes of dealers or those on a limited budget. They participate to the extent their budget allows. Many of our full-time specialty dealers expect to cover expenses when they arrive, and they pay for the opportunity at the prevailing rate. They are professionals in business and know what they need to bring that will sell. Otherwise, they must increase their offerings or consider a different profession. Hopefully, their lighters will attract enough buyers. But as you well know, we set the price to cover the anticipated costs; we did not mark-up the costs to make money.

(Continued on Page 3)

Open Letter (Continued from Page 2)

Let's not look at the gross cost alone. Members need to measure what they are getting and what they could otherwise buy for the same money. Based on John Cornelius's (our Convention Site Chairman) extensive research, it is highly unlikely we could do much better on the amenities to price ratio. The hotel waived many otherwise chargeable extras. So, we don't believe we could have secured more favorable pricing. We picked Cleveland based on its geographic location precisely because we hoped to attract the most members who would be within driving distance. The price of airfare is always a factor in the Board's decisions.

If you subtract out the dinner, your costs are comparable to any other exhibitor one-day show price. It costs our Board member in California \$20 for early admission to the Rose Bowl Outdoor Flea Market as a single day shopper only. And, the flea market certainly does not concentrate 60+ tables covered with lighters available to buy and see for several days and manned by experts anxious and willing to share their knowledge. Speaking of the dinner, while you may be able to eat elsewhere for less, keep in mind that this is a cost you would incur whether or not you attended the club dinner. In this context, much (if not all) of the cost cannot be considered an avoidable cost of the convention. There is an added benefit to the dinner - we all expect that you would enjoy the company of members who share your passion in a relaxed atmosphere. As an aside, we encourage you to make the most of this opportunity.

What is equally important to know is that the price of the Convention was designed to cover all costs and contingencies. In this way, money derived from auctions and donations can be used to improve the club for all members. In the past, we often dipped into these funds to make-up for the shortfall in the Convention expenses. This is unfair to members who cannot attend the Convention. Having said that, if more members did participate in the Convention, our fixed costs could be prorated over more registrations and everyone's costs would be less. Let's work to increase our attendance.

This is the message that we as club members should be sending to anyone who questions the cost.

For your further edification, we have taken the liberty to provide some behind-the-scenes facts on the cost of running a convention. Keep in mind that we were able to actually scale back many costs incurred in the past. Standard costs include, but are not limited to the following:

- ROOM RENTAL \$700 PER DAY
(DISPLAY ROOM FOR 2 DAYS)
(last year this cost was \$1000 per day)
- SECURITY \$30 PER HR.
- COFFEE \$21 PER GALLON
(In 2007 we paid \$700 for 10 gallons).
- BARTENDER \$ 75 PER EVENT
- CASHIER FOR CASH BARS (2 EVENTS)
- DINNER \$30 PER PERSON PLUS TAX
- MISC. EXPENSE \$100 - \$300 PER YEAR
(Including making copies of auction items, faxing, emailing, etc. In the business office)
- LIQUOR FOR OTLS SUITE
- GRATUITIES AROUND THE HOTEL
- MISC FOR OTLS SUITE
(Napkins, Cups, Glasses, etc.)
- MAILING LABELS AND PACKING MATERIAL
TO SHIP BOXES HOME
- RENTAL FOR BUSINESS MEETING ROOM
- ITEMS PURCHASED FOR RAFFLES
& DOOR PRIZES
- HIRING TEMPORARY HELP
- SUBSIDIZING SOME OF THE EXPENSES
FOR MEMBER VOLUNTEERS, ESPECIALLY
WHEN THEY ARRIVE EARLY TO HELP.
- COPIES OF ALL ITEMS FOR WELCOME
BAGS, WHICH INCLUDES SEVERAL PAGES,
100 TO 150 COPIES OF EACH PAGE.
- ENGRAVING OF FOUNDERS AWARD
- SHIPPING ITEMS FROM OTLS OFFICE TO
CONVENTION
- EQUIPMENT RENTAL, I.E.. PROJECTORS,
MICROPHONES, ETC.
- GIVEAWAYS AND RAFFLE ITEMS
- COST OF PRINTING NAME TAGS
& TABLE TAGS
- TYPICALLY, WE SIGN CONTRACTS IN
ADVANCE OF THE SHOW. A RESERVE IS
NEEDED TO OFFSET CANCELLATIONS AND
OVERESTIMATES WHEN OUR CONTRACT
CALLS FOR MINIMUM ROOMS AND MEALS..

ANOTHER GREAT LIGHTER COMPANY FALLS ON HARD TIMES

JEWELRY MANUFACTURER COLIBRI GROUP SHUTS ITS DOORS, LAYING OFF 280

10:39 AM EST ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2009

BY BENJAMIN N. GEDAN

JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

EAST PROVIDENCE — THE COLIBRI GROUP, ONE OF THE REGION'S BEST-KNOWN JEWELRY MAKERS, UNEXPECTEDLY SHUT DOWN YESTERDAY, LAYING OFF ITS 280 EMPLOYEES AND PREPARING TO SELL ALL REMAINING JEWELRY, GOLD AND SILVER TO PAY CREDITORS.

THE ABRUPT DECISION BROUGHT A SUDDEN END TO A NATIONALLY KNOWN PRODUCER OF CLOCKS, JEWELRY AND CIGARETTE LIGHTERS THAT HAD OPERATED FOR 81 YEARS.

"THE COLIBRI GROUP IS SIMPLY OUT OF MONEY," TIMOTHY P. GALLOGLY, THE COMPANY'S GENERAL COUNSEL, SAID.

COLIBRI'S OWNERS, NEW YORK-BASED FOUNDERS PRIVATE EQUITY SBIC, YESTERDAY IN SUPERIOR COURT, PROVIDENCE, SUCCESSFULLY ASKED JUDGE MICHAEL A. SILVERSTEIN TO APPOINT A RECEIVER TO SELL THE COMPANY'S ASSETS TO REPAY CREDITORS. COLIBRI OWES ABOUT \$14 MILLION TO HSBC BANK AND A SIMILAR AMOUNT TO SOVEREIGN BANK, ACCORDING TO THE RECEIVER, ATTORNEY ALLAN M. SHINE.

STARVED OF CREDIT AND BESET BY RAPIDLY FALLING SALES, COLIBRI HAD SPENT MONTHS PLEADING WITH LENDERS FOR LOANS AND TRYING TO ARRANGE A MERGER. THOSE DISCUSSIONS CONTINUED THROUGH WEDNESDAY.

BUT EMPLOYEES WERE SURPRISED BY THE CLOSURE. SOME FOUND OUT LATE WEDNESDAY THROUGH A COMPANY E-MAIL OR PHONE CALL. OTHERS, HOWEVER, DID NOT LEARN UNTIL THEY REPORTED TO WORK YESTERDAY AT THE EAST PROVIDENCE HEADQUARTERS OR THE MANUFACTURING PLANT IN PROVIDENCE. (THE DISTRIBUTION COMPLEX IN NORTH SMITHFIELD IS NOT REGULARLY STAFFED.)

COLIBRI'S CORPORATE PARTNERS ALSO HAD NOT EXPECTED THE CLOSURE.

BUSINESSES THAT SELL COLIBRI'S JEWELRY TRIED TO CALL THE COMPANY YESTERDAY AND VISITED ITS LOCKED HEADQUARTERS. "WE WERE JUST AS SURPRISED AS THE EMPLOYEES," JEFFREY S. BRENNER, A LAWYER FOR COLIBRI LENDER HSBC, TOLD SILVERSTEIN.

EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING 250 IN RHODE ISLAND AND 30 SALESMEN NATIONWIDE, WILL BE PAID THROUGH YESTERDAY.

THE LAYOFFS WORSEN THE STATE'S ALREADY DISMAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE. AS OF NOVEMBER, UNEMPLOYMENT IN RHODE ISLAND HAD REACHED 9.3 PERCENT, ONE OF THE WORST FIGURES IN THE COUNTRY. BANKRUPTCIES AND LAYOFFS HAVE STARVED THE STATE OF TAX REVENUE AND NEARLY EMPTIED THE PUBLIC FUND FOR UNEMPLOYED RESIDENTS.

"THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND CREDIT MAR-

KET ARE SUCH THAT COLIBRI CANNOT SUSTAIN ITS CURRENT OPERATIONS," JAMES E. FLEET, THE COMPANY'S PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, TOLD EMPLOYEES IN A NOTE POSTED IN THE DARKENED ENTRYWAY OF THE FAIRMOUNT AVENUE HEADQUARTERS.

EVEN BEFORE THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN, RHODE ISLAND'S MANUFACTURING SECTOR WAS DISAPPEARING, THE STATE'S RIVERS LINED BY SHUTTERED MILLS. THE HIGH LABOR COSTS AND COMPETITION FROM FOREIGN FIRMS DID NOT SPARE THE STATE'S HISTORIC JEWELRY INDUSTRY. BY 2006, ONLY 7,500 PEOPLE AT 1,000 FIRMS STILL WORKED IN THE INDUSTRY, ACCORDING TO THE STATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

BUT COLIBRI, POWERED BY PRIZED BRANDS SUCH AS SETH THOMAS AND MOVADO, REMAINED PROFITABLE.

IN 2003, COLIBRI ACQUIRED A NEW JERSEY JEWELRY COMPANY. TWO YEARS LATER, OWNER FRED LEVINGER, OF PROVIDENCE, SOLD THE COMPANY TO THREE PRIVATE-EQUITY FIRMS. AT THE TIME, IT HAD 500 EMPLOYEES AND REPORTED \$100 MILLION IN ANNUAL SALES.

STEEP, RECENT DECLINES IN CONSUMER SPENDING, HOWEVER, QUICKLY ERODED REVENUE. IN 2007, COLIBRI'S \$80 MILLION IN SALES DID NOT COME CLOSE TO COVERING EXPENSES, RESULTING IN A \$10-MILLION LOSS, SHINE SAID. LAST YEAR, COMPANY SALES DROPPED TO \$64 MILLION AND LOSSES AGAIN TOTALED \$10 MILLION.

"BEFORE THAT, THE COMPANY WAS DOING QUITE WELL," SHINE SAID YESTERDAY IN AN INTERVIEW AT SUPERIOR COURT. "THE BUSINESS DETERIORATED. THE MAJOR ECONOMIC DOWNTURN HAS IMPACTED THE BUSINESS VERY UNFAVORABLY."

AS THE NATION'S HOUSING MARKET COLLAPSED AND STOCKS SLUMPED, DEMAND FOR COLIBRI'S \$1,500 CUFFLINKS AND \$100 CIGARETTE LIGHTERS DRIED UP.

"IT'S AN EASY PURCHASE TO DEFER WHEN YOU'RE TIGHTENING YOUR BELT," GALLOGLY SAID. "WE TRIED OUR BEST. WE JUST WEREN'T ABLE TO GET THROUGH THIS."

A YEAR AGO, COLIBRI HIRED PHOENIX MANAGEMENT SERVICES, A CRISIS MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY, TO RESCUE THE FOUNDERING BUSINESS. BUT SALES DID NOT RECOVER AND MERGER NEGOTIATIONS FELL APART WHEN POTENTIAL PARTNERS COULD NOT FIND CAPITAL TO INVEST. (COLIBRI DECLINED TO DISCLOSE THE COMPANIES IT APPROACHED.)

FLEET, WHO ATTENDED THE COURT HEARING YESTERDAY ALONGSIDE LAWYERS FOR HSBC AND COLIBRI'S LANDLORDS, DECLINED TO COMMENT.

TO CONTROL COSTS, COLIBRI MADE TEMPORARY LAYOFFS LAST MONTH. PRODUCT DESIGNER KELLY FUSARO, 43, OF PROVIDENCE, LOST HER JOB. BUT SHE SAID SHE WAS SURE SHE WOULD RETURN IN THE NEW YEAR.

"OUR CUSTOMERS AREN'T ORDERING BECAUSE NO ONE IS BUYING," FUSARO SAID. "IT'S REALLY SAD."

A Case of Spelunking

By John Cornelius

I have a habit of saving information and images that I find interesting onto my computer as I am cruising the Internet. Videos, cartoons, artwork, and of course, lighters. Most of the time I expect to return to this for some purpose.

Unfortunately, rather than being a well organized filing system, my computer files more closely resemble a series of poorly marked tunnels. So, searching for a particular item often involves the exploration of several of these tunnels...Or, as I have begun to call it..."Spelunking". This can produce a few surprises along the way.

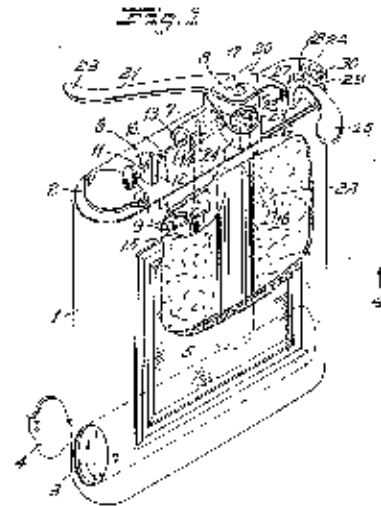
During a recent expedition I came upon pictures of a very interesting lighter that I had saved somewhere along the way and soon forgot. Besides being somewhat unusual in appearance, the lighter was marked Bettini with a US patent number listed on the bottom.



In all likelihood, these were saved as a reminder to "be on the lookout" for this lighter. However, now I decided to learn what I could about this lighter.

First stop, the on-line patent services. Of course, finding the patent with the number is easy...Actually reading them I find to be somewhat more daunting and confusing.

What is not obvious from the angle of these pictures is how the lighter might be ignited. This does become more clear from the 1928 patent drawing and description.



In the drawing, can be seen that there is a movable lever that is not obvious in the picture to the left. From the description is learned that the lever is connected to an internal spring developing tension when moved, by thumb, to the left and at the same time opening the wick cover. Releasing the lever causes the spark wheel to turn creating a spark shower to ignite the wick. In the picture at left, the very tip of the lever can be seen protruding beyond the flint screw. Well, the sounds familiar...another type of "kickstart" lighter.

The lighter pictured at left would seem to have some differences from the patent. The wick cover appears to open vertically rather than horizontally. The lighter is fueled more traditionally through bottom fuel screw rather than through top cover (2). Tube (3), intended as a container perhaps for lipstick and the mirror (5) are not included on this model. Perhaps there are some out there with these features?

The patent lists Gianni Bettini of New York as inventor. A wealthy Italian born in 1860 in Novara. He immigrated to New York in 1885 and is described as socialite and a photographer.

Although he is credited with several inventions including two lighter patents as well as an automatic ball-throwing device for tennis, and a cinematograph system of moving glass panes, he is most revered for the invention of the "Micro-Reproducer. A play back device which greatly improved the sound quality of Edison phonographs and allowing for quality recording of music. Thus, an early "audiophile" who's phonograph recording cylinders of operas sold for \$6.00 when Edison's cylinders cost under \$1.00.

Bettini, a colorful character in lighter history, died in Italy in 1938.

NET NEWS

BY LARRY TOLKIN

“TRANSPORTATION LIGHTERS”

WHETHER YOU DRIVE OR FLY TO THIS YEARS CONVENTION IN CLEVELAND, THERE IS A LIGHTER THAT CAN TAKE YOU TO THE SHOW. FUN FIGURAL NOVELTY TRANSPORTATION LIGHTERS FEATURING AUTOMOBILES OR AIRPLANES ARE SOME OF THE MOST COLLECTIBLE ITEMS WE ENJOY. SHOWN ARE A FEW OF THE FIGURAL CARS AND AIRPLANES THAT SOLD ON EBAY WITHIN THE LAST FEW WEEKS. SEE YOU THERE, **LARRY**.



LUCKY CAR MIB - \$153



BAIER ALUMINUM JEEP - \$76



MERCEDES BENZ RADIATOR - \$67



BLUE BIRD RACE CAR - \$32



MIOJ BUICK - \$106



HELLCAT FIGHTER - \$46



ROLLS ROYCE STRIKER - \$87

THE ZIPPO GIFT SET

BY ROB GIARRETTA

AFTER COLLECTING ANYTHING FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, IT'S VERY COMMON FOR FOCUSES AND SUB-COLLECTIONS TO DEVELOP. THOUGH I TRY TO MAINTAIN A WELL ROUNDED ZIPPO COLLECTION, I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ATTRACTED TO THE LESS COMMON VARIATIONS OF ORIGINAL PACKAGING. AS A FAN OF ZIPPO PACKAGING, IT IS ONLY NATURAL THAT I DEVELOPED A SUB-COLLECTION OF ZIPPO GIFT SETS. THE GIFT SET IS FAR AND AWAY MY FAVORITE ZIPPO ITEM. I'VE HAD A GREAT TIME SEARCHING FOR THE VARIATIONS I STILL NEED. (MY BIRTHDAY IS MAY 23RD IF ANYONE WANTS TO SEND ME A LOSSPROOF GIFT SET.) THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS NOT MEANT TO BE COMPLETE, BUT MORE OF A BASIC OVERVIEW OF THE GIFT SET AND THE CHANGES OVER THE YEARS, AS WELL AS SOME INFORMATION ON A COUPLE OF THE RARE VARIATIONS. AS WITH JUST ABOUT ANYTHING WITH ZIPPO, ALL OF THE DATES GIVEN ARE GENERAL, AS THERE WAS ALMOST ALWAYS OVERLAP IN BOTH DIRECTIONS WHEN CHANGES WERE MADE.

THE GIFT SET FIRST STARTED APPEARING IN ZIPPO ADVERTISING IN 1939 WITH THE FOLLOWING TEXT – "ZIPPO LIGHTER KIT – DESIGNED TO SOLVE THE 'COMPLETE' GIFT PROBLEM. ADD FIFTY CENTS ABOVE THE COST OF ANY POCKET LIGHTER AND WE WILL PLACE IT IN A HANDSOME KIT BOX INCLUDING LARGE CAN OF ZIPPO FLUID AND FIVE DOUBLE PACKAGES OF FLINTS." THIS KIT CAN BE SEEN IN FIGURE #1. AFTER WWII, THE LID OF THE KIT WAS CHANGED TO THE BROAD SILVER AND BLACK STRIPES BEING USED ON THE POCKET AND TABLE LIGHTER BOXES. (FIG. #2) THIS WAS THE LAST BOX THAT SHARED DESIGN WITH THE POCKET LIGHTER BOX. IN THE EARLY 50'S THE GIFT SET CHANGED TO THE LARGE SILVER/WHITE STRIPED BOX. (FIGURE #3) THIS WAS THE LARGEST OF THE GIFT SET BOXES. THE BOX WAS REDUCED IN SIZE IN THE MID-50'S, AND HAS MAINTAINED ROUGHLY THE SAME SIZE EVER SINCE. CIRCA 1958, THE BOX WAS CHANGED YET AGAIN TO A GREEN BOX WITH A PLASTIC INSERT. THESE WERE THE FIRST GIFT BOXES TO ACCOMMODATE SLIM LIGHTERS. (FIGURE #4) IN 1962, AS THE LIGHTER BOXES CHANGED TO THE WHITE FLAME BOX, THE GIFT SET CHANGED TO A SIMILAR WHITE BOX WITH THE FLAME LOGO. THE FIRST BOXES WERE SLIGHTLY LONGER TO ACCOMMODATE THE TALLER LEAD SPOUT FLAME LOGO FLUID CAN AND THE PLASTIC INSERT HELD THE LIGHTER ON THE BOTTOM. (FIGURE #7) WHEN THE BOXES WERE EVENTUALLY SHORTENED WHEN THE CANS WENT TO PLASTIC SPOUTS, THEY ALSO SWITCHED THE INSERT TO HOLD THE LIGHTER

ON THE TOP WITH THE FLING HOLDER IN A RAISED BOX. THIS STYLE WOULD CONTINUE UNTIL THE APPEARANCE OF THE NEW ZIPPO LOGO IN 1977, WITH THE ONLY CHANGES BEING TO THE FLUID CANS AND FLINT DISPENSERS. THE GIFT SET WITH THE REPEATED NEW LOGO WAS USED ALL THE WAY THROUGH THE 1980'S.

FIGURE #1
THE FIRST ZIPPO LIGHTER KIT



FIGURE #2
LATE 40'S CHRISTMAS GIFT BOX



FIGURE #3
1950-51 GIFT BOX



(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

FIGURE #4
1951-52



FIGURE #5
1952-1958



FIGURE #6
1958-63



FIGURE #7
1962-63 GIFT BOX.

THE BOX IS SLIGHTLY LONGER TO ACCOMMODATE THE TALLER LEAD SPOUT FLUID CAN.



FIGURE #8

RARE 1960's CANADIAN GIFT SET WITH OVAL FLUID CAN IN FRENCH AND ENGLISH.



FIGURE #9

RARE 1969 GIFT SET WITH CUSTOM WINSTON BOX LID. THIS LIGHTER WAS MADE FOR THE NASCAR WINSTON 500. THERE WERE ALSO CUSTOM GIFT SETS MADE FOR MOORE MCCORMACK LINES, GULF OIL AND ESSO.



(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8)

FIGURE #10

THOUGH MOST GIFT SETS WERE PROMOTIONAL, SOME WERE AVAILABLE FOR RETAIL SALE. THIS SET IN THE ORIGINAL RETAIL DISPLAY IS FROM THE MID-1960'S AND HAS A CLEAR PLASTIC LID.



FIGURE #11

ZIPPO MFG. USED GIFT SETS AS TOKENS OF APPRECIATION FOR EMPLOYEES FOR BOTH THE 40TH AND 50TH ANNIVERSARIES. THE FLUID CAN IS A STANDARD CAN WITH THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY STICKER APPLIED TO ONE SIDE. THIS SET STILL RETAINS THE HARD TO FIND OUTER SHIPPING BOX AND CARD.



FIGURE #12
1977-1983 GIFT SET



FIGURE #13

1982 50TH ANNIVERSARY EMPLOYEE GIFT SET. LIKE THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY SET, THE FLUID CAN IS A STANDARD CAN WITH A 50TH ANNIVERSARY STICKER APPLIED TO ONE SIDE.



MY LIGHTER JOURNEY TO GERMANY-MAY 2009

LARRY TOLKIN

I HAD HEARD FROM OTHER COLLECTORS THAT THE KREFELD SHOW WAS WORTH ATTENDING AND THE VOLKER PUTZ LIGHTER MUSEUM WAS AMAZING SO I DECIDED TO TRAVEL TO GERMANY TO VISIT BOTH. EACH PLACE FAR EXCEEDED MY ALREADY HIGH EXPECTATIONS.

I STARTED MY TRIP AT JFK AIRPORT ONLY TO MEET A FELLOW LUFTHANSA PASSENGER WHO KNEW AL GROSSKOFF. I THEN REALIZED I WAS GOING TO HAVE A VERY GOOD TRIP. I THEN FLEW INTO DUSSELDORF AIRPORT WHERE UPON LANDING SPOTTED A FLEA MARKET OFF THE RUNWAY KNOWING THE SHOW HOST/PROMOTER-GRAHAME MARTIN MUST BE SHOPPING THERE - BEFORE HE WAS TO PICK ME UP-HE WAS. GRAHAME THEN MET ME AT 9AM TO CONTINUE MY JOURNEY.

WE FIRST DROVE TO GRAHAME'S HOUSE TO VIEW HIS LIGHTER COLLECTION. I WAS QUITE IMPRESSED - ESPECIALLY WHEN VIEWING NUMEROUS MODELS - I'VE NOT SEEN BEFORE INCLUDING SOME UNUSUAL THORENS. THE QUALITY WAS IMPRESSIVE WITH MOST MINT

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)

CONVENTION CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE OR TRADE

Always looking for Ronson Bookends I do not have. Also looking for pre-1930 Ronson parts as well as parts for Thorens, Marathon, Elgin-Otis, Golden Wheel and Dunhill. I also want old Ronson Perfu-Mists. Also looking for copies of old lighter catalogues that we can use for the newsletter to share with other collectors. If you have them on a CD, that's even better. We need content for the newsletter to keep it going and keep it interesting. See you in Cleveland. Rich Weinstein

FOR SALE: Ronson Touch-tip with 8 day clock. Dureum finish and excellent condition. Email Ira at <vintageltr@aol.com>

I will be at the Convention with a Display of working Ronson Lighters - stop by and see how a touch tip works - free estimates for repairs available so bring what you would like fixed with you and I'll tell you what it will take to make fire with it again. Bob Adams. Website <www.ronsonrepair.com> Email <rpadams357@hotmail.com>

1966 Slim Zippo w/Town & Country USS F. D. Roosevelt \$35; 1981 Slim Zippo Miller High Life MIB (Black Plastic) \$35; 1960 Reg. Size w/Brass Coca Cola Bottle Exc +++ \$175; 1940/50 Pat. 2032695 U. S Railroad & Signal Communication Cable with Brass Locomotive on front and U.S. Rubber Co. on back. \$100; Two Ronson Rondettes w/Frigidaire 1936 Safety Campaign engraved on the back with Ronson Box. \$75 each. See Ken Short at the Convention

Bringing LOTS of lighters - will sell very reasonably. Also bringing a showcase full of pencil lighters to sell. See you in Cleveland! John & Audrey Kronen

WANTED

I am looking for unusual lighters from other countries. Also looking for some of the lesser known manufacturers, such as Silver Match, Nova, Sarastro, Motta (all of these are shown in Bisconcini). And, of course, still ALWAYS looking for figurals (people lighters) that I don't have. See you all soon. Email Judith Sanders <OTLS@suddenlink.net> or call (903)763-2795

Seeking lighter to share my life. Serious and long term relationship contemplated. Ideally between the ages of 75 - 125 years old so expect nothing kinky, although I might carry you in my pocket. No dings or dents on your body but scratches and signs of wear are acceptable. Must like rock music and moonlit nights on a shelf. If I have to lift your arm, that is okay but I prefer if you can do so automatically. If you are precious, then you are precious to me. No drinking of any kind allowed. You must remain dry but must be willing and able to work. Please no gas. I make enough of my own! Call Guy

WANTED: Old Ronson lighter parts - if you have new old stock Ronson Factory lighter parts, bring them to the convention. Also always looking for any Touch Tip junkers/parts lighters you may have. I'm buying! Bob Adams email <rpadams357@hotmail.com>

Wanted: Circa 1996 Zippo. A model called The Blue Marble. Goldtone with blue vertical lines running across the lighter. I need 2 pieces in condition rating of 8 - 10. Can buy or trade. Lighters with mini liquor bottles encased in lucite/plastic. Enameled Evans Table Lighters, the Classic Model. Unusual Aluminum and Trench lighters, great MIOJ Figural lighters. Unusual advertising lighters,

WANTED

table or pocket. Pre-1900 lighters, Deco lighters, and the usual great stuff. Buy or trade for a collection or one piece. Call Guy at (310)215-1951 or email <btrade@ca.rr.com>

Looking for Zippos with Valentines on the front. Nancy Lloyd (336)724-0821

Wanted to buy - 25th anniversary Hooters Zippo lighter. Also Wanted - your personal lighter collection website link to add to a page on our website about non-Zippo lighters. Contact Robin at <rbdabber@mchsi.com>



" Helpers Wanted "

A great job with lots of perks !

- Be your own boss
- Short hours
- See lots of cool lighters
- Meet interesting people
- Share laughter and have a good time

Need people to assist with registration, auctions, monitoring entry door, relieving for lunch, suite duties for OTLS, etc. Please contact Nancy Lloyd if interested or 336-724-0821

I WILL ARRANGE SHIPPING OF BOXES AFTER THE CONVENTION FOR ANY OF YOU WHO ARE FLYING TO THE CONVENTION. JUDITH

LOOK FOR A SURPRISE AT THE SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER!



HAVE YOU REGISTERED FOR THE CONVENTION?

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE OR TRADE

I can repair Zippo Cam Springs. Also repair Trench Art lighters. Email <pyrotip@velocity.net> or write to Tom Prylinski

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 1-800-379-3415 or email<califfia01@gmail.com

A former member would like to sell one of the OTLS Club Lighter (the reproduction outside hinge). He wants \$100.00. If interested, please contact Judith Sanders (903)763-2795 or email <otls@suddenlink.net>

WANTED

I am interested in buying Canadian Pat Pending Zippos. Also I have acquired a collection of Barcrofts and will have to sell some of them. Hen Gilinov (818)335-8267 or email <hengilinov@gmail.com>

Looking for a White Lighter (Made in Texas). Call or email Judith Sanders (903)763-2797 or email <otls@suddenlink.net>

Looking for a Zippo preferred or other Zippo type lighter with the U.S.S. Cone DD866 on the front of the lighter, with a Sea Serpent holding a submarine on the back of the lighter. Pat Zicari pgzicari@aol.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 email <vintageltr@aol.com> or call (201) 797-6595.

WANTED: Any Valentine lighters you might have. Call Nancy Lloyd (336)724-0821 or email at <nllloyd@triad.rr.com>

WANTED

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. Email John Cornelius at <jclighters@sbcglobal.net>

Do you have lighters in your collection that are damaged or inoperable? A Ronson touch tip that doesn't light the first time every time or needs a new wick? Ronson striker models that need a new flint fitted or wand rebuilt? I repair vintage lighters and have a collection of stock parts and can custom make missing pieces for rare lighters. While I specialize in Ronson touch tips, I also repair many art deco collectible lighters as well as the most common table and pocket models so they can be used on a daily basis. For more information and review of my services please visit: www.ronsonrepair.com/otls or e-mail me with questions at rpadams357@hotmail.com, please include a description of the lighter, make, model, and problem, and a small picture if possible.

The Roseart Company - Zippo Lighter Show will be held on Friday, July 17th from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, July 18th from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the St. Bernard Parish Center (across the street from the big church by Top's Supermarket). The fee for a table is \$35.00 for one 6 ft. table and \$50.00 for two 6 ft. tables. A downloadable registration form is attached. You can email, fax or mail it back to us. You must be a member of a Zippo Lighter collector club to exhibit. We will accept Visa, MasterCard, PayPal, money orders and checks with a valid Driver's license number. Vendors must collect and remit 6% sales tax, etc. Payment and registration information must be received no later than June 12, 2009. We look forward to seeing whoever can make it on short notice. We will try to make this fun and hopefully you can even sell some lighters. Vendors will be allowed to display and sell Case knives also. Please help to spread the word that "The show must go on." Downtown Bradford will be having a Car Show and

Sidewalk Sales on Friday, Karoeko in the Square Friday night, and I believe there will be an Art Show right around the corner from us (by Roseart's Store on Main Street). We will have coffee/tea and donuts available for purchase in the a.m. and a vendor setup so you can purchase lunch. I believe Claudio Mazzi and Antonella are still going to be coming all the way from Italy also. Please help us to spread the word. Thanks so much, Kelly Rose Platko, www.roseart-lighters.com, 119 Main Street, Bradford, PA, 16701, Phone: 814-362-3030, Fax: 814-362-2222

Introducing Roseart's latest collectible lighter. It is now available for \$39.95 each plus \$5.00 postage in the US and \$14.00 International postage. Only 50 were manufactured and numbered consecutively of the Hooker-Fulton Building in Bradford (our tallest skyscraper on Main Street located in the theatre district). Roseart's store is located in this historical building. If you look at the bottom left corner on the front, you'll see our store. The new owners are Tut Holdings, LLC and they have done a fantastic job of restoring it as it was built in 1931. There is a very limited amount available. Get yours while supplies last by visiting www.roseartlighters.com or by calling 814-362-3030 or email: roseartlighter-susa@verizon.net. Thank you, Kelly and company



NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD....



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO URBAN AND CHRIS; HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY TO HOWARD & MARGIE TOLER. OUR SYMPATHY TO IRA PILOSSOF ON THE LOSS OF HIS COUSIN. OUR SOCIAL SECRETARY, KAREN POLITI, HAS BEEN HAVING A COUPLE OF HEALTH PROBLEMS, BUT IS DOING BETTER NOW. SINCE SHE SENDS ALL OF US CARDS - MAYBE WE SHOULD ALL SEND HER A NICE CHEERFUL CARD!

LARRY'S TRIP TO GERMANY (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

OR MINT IN BOX. I KNEW THEN THAT GRAHAME WAS AS ADDICTED TO LIGHTERS AS I. THEN - IT WAS OFF TO HOTEL WHERE A UK GROUP OF COLLECTORS WERE ALREADY THERE. IT WAS A GOOD FEELING TO SO SOME AFTERNOON ROOM HOPPING WHERE I SAW MANY HIGH QUALITY LIGHTERS. BOTH MY FIRST PURCHASE AND SALE HAD QUICKLY BEEN FINALIZED. GRAHAME THEN ALLOWS THOSE WHO ARRIVE ON FRIDAY TO SET-UP FOR AN HOUR AT ABOUT 5 - 6PM. IT FELT GOOD TO BE READY FOR SATURDAYS ACTION KNOWING I WAS ALREADY SET-UP. THE HOTEL WAS THE PERFECT SIZE WITH BAR AREA AND OUTDOOR SEATING. THE WEATHER WAS PERFECT IN GERMANY WHILE AT HOME IN CONNECTICUT-IT RAINED THE ENTIRE TIME I WAS AWAY. LATER THAT NITE IT WAS 40 COLLECTORS OFF TO A GREEK RESTAURANT FOR DINNER WHICH WAS TASTY. THE GROUP RETURNED TO HOTEL ABOUT 10:30PM WHEN IT WAS TIME FOR ME TO PASS OUT IN BED- ESPECIALLY NOT BEING ABLE TO SLEEP ON OUTBOUND FLIGHT.

THE NEXT MORNING STARTS WITH HOTEL BREAKFAST AND A 9AM SHARP DOOR OPENING. COLLECTORS WHO STARTED ARRIVING EARLY BY CAR - TAXI - TRAIN - AND MOTORBIKE CAME FROM - ENGLAND - HOLLAND - SPAIN - FRANCE - ITALY - AUSTRIA - AND ALL GERMANY. THE 9AM INCOMING RUSH FELT LIKE THE OLD DAYS BEFORE EBAY AT USA LIGHTER SHOWS. THE BUYING SELLING AND TRADING FRENZY LASTED A FEW HOURS WITH EXCITED COLLECTORS SHOWING OFF THEIR NEWLY PRIZED FINDS ON A CONSTANT BASIS. I MET MANY EBAY NAMES THAT I'D ONLY SOLD TO AND NOW COULD THANK THEM IN PERSON. I MUST OF BOUGHT FROM AT LEAST 12 DIFFERENT SELLERS AND SOLD TO OVER 20 DIFFERENT COLLECTORS. I LIKELY WOULD OF SOLD A LOT MORE IF I WERE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE BETTER IN GERMAN. I THANK -CHRIS AT THE TABLE NEXT TO ME FOR ALL HIS HELP IN TRANSLATIONS. CHRIS IS A LONG LOST BROTHER OF OTLS MEMBER JOE CACCAMO.

I WAS LEAVING THE SHOW WITH VOLKER SO I STARTED TO PACK -UP AT 1-PM AND IN JUST 4 HOURS SATURDAY MORNING - ENJOYED A FANTASTIC LIGHTER EXPERIENCE. I EVEN ACQUIRED TOTAL OF 18 LIGHTERS FOR MY PERSONAL COLLECTION. THE SHOW CONTINUES A LITTLE LONGER BUT AS WE HAD A 4 HOUR DRIVE TO HAMBURG-IT WAS BEST TO LEAVE EARLY.

THE DRIVE FROM KREFELD TO HAMBURG SHOWS OFF GERMANY'S LANDSCAPE BEAUTY- AND ITS FAME FOR HIGHWAY SPEED-WE WERE DRIVING 240 KMPH-ROUGHLY 145 MPH-AT SOME PARTS-WHICH WAS FASTER THAN I HAD EVER DRIVEN BEFORE. ON THE AUTOBAHN-THERE ARE NO SPEED LIMITS ON CERTAIN ROUTES. ARRIVING AT VOLKER'S HOUSE EARLY EVENING FOR A

QUICK WASH-UP - THEN STRAIGHT TO HIS MUSEUM ON THE TOP FLOOR. HAVING BEING DESIGNED BY HIS ARCHITECT DAUGHTER- THE MUSEUM IS DONE IN STREAMLINE MODERN DESIGN WITH 2 LEVELS. AFTER A QUICK OVERVIEW FROM VOLKER - HE ALLOWED ME TO WANDER ALONE. VOLKERS MUSEUM STARTS WITH FIRE STEELS - THEN GOES TO HYDROGEN AND DOBEREINER LAMPS - CAP LIGHTERS - STRIKERS - THEN EUROPEAN - JAPAN AND USA SECTIONS. IT IS TRULY A SHOWCASE FOR THE HISTORY OF FIRE MAKING DEVICES. THERE ARE OVER 4000 LIGHTERS ON DISPLAY. ON THE VERY TOP FLOOR COMES THE DUNHILL COLLECTION - WHICH IS THE FINEST EVER ASSEMBLED. I HAD NEVER SEEN SO MANY ONE-OF-A-KIND GOLD- SILVER - ENAMEL AND FANCY SHAPE DUNHILLS. I SAW MANY UNIQUE MODELS - I NEVER SAW IN PERSON. MY EYES WERE SOON BLURRY SO IT WAS BEDTIME AND I CONTINUED THE MUSEUM VIEWING THE FOLLOWING MORNING. VOLKER THEN DROVE ME ON A TOUR OF BEAUTIFUL HAMBURG WHICH IS EXPERIENCING A BUILDING BOOM. HAMBURG IS A VERY MODERN - UPBEAT - DYNAMIC WORLD CLASS CITY. THEN ABOUT MID-DAY - IT WAS OFF TO THE AIRPORT FOR THE 8 HOUR FLIGHT HOME.

THIS WAS ONE OF MY BEST OVERSEAS LIGHTER TRIPS I EVER HAD TAKEN AND WISH TO THANK ALL OF YOU I MET WHO MADE THIS SUCH AN ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCE. OTLS MEMBERS - IF YOU ARE PLANNING A TRIP TO EUROPE-TRY TO VISIT THE VOLKER LIGHTER MUSEUM IN HAMBURG OR IF TRAVELING IN EARLY MAY-CHECK OUT KREFELD LIGHTER SHOW NEAR DUSSELDORF NEXT YEAR. BOTH ARE WORTH THE JOURNEY.

**NEXT ISSUE July 2009.
SEND ADS BY June 20, 2009.**



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