



# On The LIGHTER Side

September 15, 2009

Vol. XXVI, No. 5

## *And Now A Letter From Your Editor* *Richard Weinstein*



We find ourselves nearing the end of summer and with that the next to last newsletter for 2009. Our hobby has gone through many transformations

over the years. What was once a club roster of 1000 members has now become slightly under 300. Some members have lost interest in lighters, other have had to slow down due to economic issues, others needing to sell to supplement their incomes. There are those, though, that continue to collect but neglect to maintain membership in otls. For those members who know fellow collectors who have let their membership lapse, it is time to ask them to rejoin. Clubs such as OTLS, PLPG, LCGB, Zippoclick and other worldwide clubs have had a great influence on lighter collecting keeping this hobby in the forefront.

Without these clubs, there would just be closet collectors who never knew of others that had the same or similar interests. These clubs allowed collectors to reach out to one another but putting all of us together. And because of these clubs selflessly promoting lighter collecting, many of us have seen our lighters gain in value of the years. Of course there are always ups and downs in the valuation of any collectable and right now, we find many lighters losing value due to many variables. We find fewer new collectors coming into this field. It is the clubs that provide information on lighter collecting to those who may be interested. These clubs exist for you and for those who are not yet lighter collectors. We have had some great years - let's keep it up!!!

I am urging all members to reach out to those collectors who have let their memberships lapse to rejoin which will in turn keep these clubs alive. Re-

member, these clubs exist not for profit. If profit was the reason these clubs exist, they would have been gone long ago. These clubs exist to keep lighter collecting alive. The members who selflessly give of their time for no compensation other than the want to provide a lighter forum for those interested, will only be able to continue with the support of its membership. Please remember this when it becomes time to renew your membership next year.

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## **A VERY SAD TIME AT RONSON CORP.**

BY URBAN CUMMINGS

Although it may not be, the following does sound like another victim of hard economic times.

The backstory is this. As long as the original bank carried the business debt of Ronson Corp., things ran smoothly, but then as the economy worsened the original bank was bought by another bank.

At some point, the new bank decided to "call in the paper," A common phrase meaning "we are no longer going to assist you financially." The consequence of this is similar to a foreclosure on your home.

The second bank notified Ronson that a "CRO" (Chief Reconstruction Officer) had been appointed and would be taking over management of the company, replacing Louis Aronson as President. As a result of this change LVA does remain Chairman of the Board of Directors but many people were fired and the corporate offices at Somerset, NJ, were closed. The remains were moved to Woodbridge, NJ, the location of Ronson Consumer Products Corp. (RCPC).

It now appears the individuals running the company are going to take bids to sell part of Ronson. I guess we will have to wait and see what happens next.

Having been very close to Ronson for many years and counting Mr. Aronson as a friend, I feel terrible about what's happening. I am at a loss to go further with this story, so I will leave it up to the reader to draw their own conclusions.

## IMCO Solo Squeeze Lighter

A stunning mid-century modern automatic Imco Solo aluminum, chrome-plated steel & brass automatic squeezer pocket lighter with a striking modernist wind-guard, stunning fired purple enamel paint Zig-Zag design and an abstract zoomorphic bird's-beak-like snuffer lid. The fuel tank (with original wick and leather gasket) is removed for fueling. Some folks claim that such removal also allows for use as a pipe lighter. Measures approximately 2-1/4 by 1-1/2 by 1/2 inches with a weight of 1.4 ounces (40 grams).

An Austrian design by J. MEISTER & CO. (JMCO) of VIENNA. US patented and made in New York. Circa 1940. Marked "IMCO / N.Y. / SOLO / MADE IN U.S.A. / PAT.PEND."



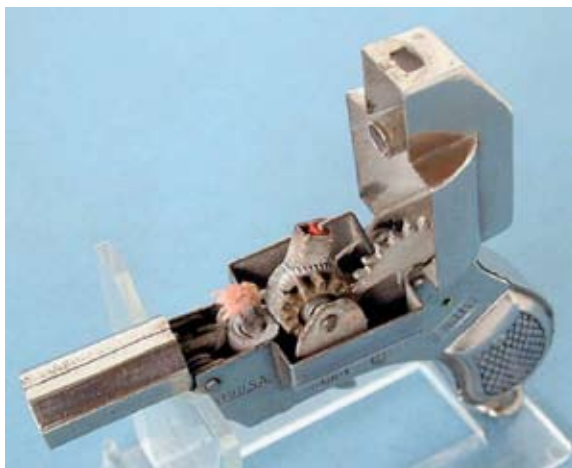
Source: Michael Cassidy



# The DANDY

## SEMI-AUTOMATIC HANDGUN LIGHTER

Fine old nickel-on-brass spring-loaded semi-automatic trigger-actuated figural pistol flint-and-fuel pocket lighter in exceptional condition. Made in Austria, circa 1920 and Patented in America. At approximately 3 by 2-3/4 by 13/16 inches, it weighs 1.7 ounces (48 grams). Features patterned grips meant to imitate checkered covers and double fuel filling screws with original leather gaskets. The one at the base of the handle is mounted with a ring for attachment as a watch fob. It is signed on both sides: "Pat'd. U.S.A. / DANDY / (a logo in circle that appears to be initials) SJ / E.&J.B." Signed below the barrel: "AUSTRIA"



Source: Michael Cassidy

## VIRTUAL ZIPPO LIGHTER NOTCHES FIVE MILLION DOWNLOADS

Virtual Zippo Lighter is the most popular branded iPhone app of all time.

The Virtual Zippo Lighter, a free branded application available in Apple's iTunes App

Store for the iPhone and the iPod Touch has reached the five million download mark as of this summer.

The Virtual Zippo Lighter, which brings the look and feel of Zippo's iconic lighter to the iPhone, has become a global phenomenon and ranks in the top 20 iPhone apps of all time according to Comscore. It opens with a flick of the wrist and lights with a turn of the flint wheel and the truly windproof flame sways as the device is moved back and forth. The Virtual Zippo Lighter allows Zippo fans to experience the famous "Zippo Encore Moment" for free, by holding their cell phones aloft and swaying to power ballads at concerts.



**Virtual Zippo Lighter**

The Virtual Zippo lighter features a selection of designs to customize the skin of the lighter, as well as an animated flame that reacts to movement of the phone. The application takes advantage of several features of the iPhone and iPod Touch developer platform, including the accelerometer to enable movement of the flame in response to motion. Realistic sound effects highlight the action of the lighter when it opens and closes, and the vibration feature lets you know when the flame is upside down.

"If you were to tell us how popular the Virtual Zippo app would be twelve months ago, we would have told you that you flipped your lighter lid" jokes Pat Grandy, Marketing Communications Manager at Zippo, "but the results speak for themselves."

The Virtual Zippo Lighter was launched in the U.S. In September 2008 and was recently released in several countries in Western Europe. It is now available to iPhone and iPod Touch users in 22 countries.

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There will be a Zippo and Case Swap Meet South on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday,  
**October 23, 24, 25, 2009 in Sevierville, TN.**

- Swap Meet hours will be:
  - Friday 12 – 6 p.m.
  - Saturday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
  - Sunday 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- The event is hosted by SMKW with participation from Zippo and Case
- The event is open to Zippo and Case collectors.
- Tables may be reserved for \$50 each with a maximum of two tables per person. Reservations must be made through SMKW. Payment can be made the day of set up. Space is limited. Overnight Security will be provided.
- If anyone would rather just display their collection and not sell, they may set up in the Knife Museum upstairs of SMKW for \$20. Space is limited.
- Food vendors will be available on the grounds.
- Kit Rae will be there Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- The Click Together lighter that SMKW will be offering will be available during the Click Together Saturday beginning at 9 a.m.
- There will be a special event knife and lighter produced.
  - 250 lighters
  - Not sure how many event knives
- All proceeds from the event will go to the Knife Museum.
  - Many raffles will be taking place including a raffle for #1 of both lighters.

# Spotlighting Members

By John Cornelius

## ARTISTS AMONG US

Paul Fleming and Martine Carpentier – New Zealand

One of the advantages that I have enjoyed from membership in OTLS has been meeting collectors from around the world.

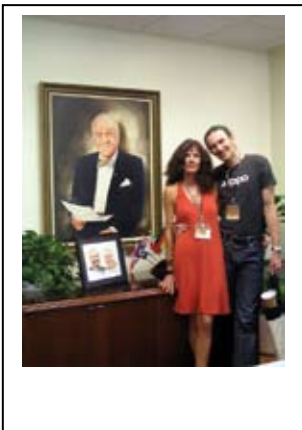


In the Workshop

Recently I had the opportunity to connect with Paul Fleming through a Zippo networking site and quickly learned that we share membership in both OTLS and LCGB, as well as, other common lighter collecting interests.

Like most of us, his collecting of lighters began with one. A Zippo to which he was particularly attracted.

While Paul's personal collection is an eclectic mixture of lighters from around the world, he is most recognized among collectors of Zippo lighters for the one-of-a-kind pieces of art he creates utilizing this famous lighter. With background in calligraphy and graphic design combined with developed skills in engraving and sandblasting, Paul began to create art from lighters in the late 1990's.

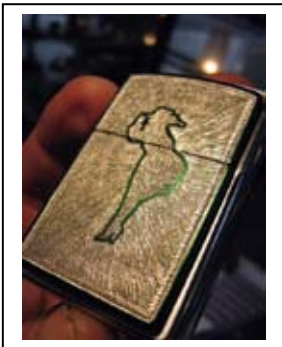


Paul and Martine 2006

In 2003, Paul was honored by Zippo as a "Recognized Artist". A glass platter creation sandblasted with Zippo's italic logo, submitted with his application for this recognition, is now on display in the Zippo boardroom.

Additionally, he has been afforded the opportunity to create a number of pieces for Roseart, by whom he has been recognized as a "Famous Artist".

Paul and Martine met in the Bangkok airport smoking lounge and, in 2001, married in New Zealand where Paul had started his artisan business, "Free Spirit" in 1999. Both are artists with pieces appearing in galleries and private collections.



Admittedly, I would not be classified as a Zippo collector. However, upon viewing the lighters on his website I was awed by the beauty, craftsmanship and uniqueness of this work.

"Lady of the Light"

Here are a few additional examples of this unique art.



Beyond his work with Zippo lighters, Paul's collection includes several humorous pieces that he terms Weird Tobacciana and a growing collection of early European lighters. No easy feat considering his location on the bottom of the world. Besides Ebay, he has spent much time networking with other collectors to build his collection.

Paul and Martine have adopted the motto "In All Things..Be Passionate". Apt, I think, for these two unique members.

Also, I must take a moment to thank my new *KIWI* friend for going beyond the call in acquiring for me a very unique Ready "Reform" lighter that he even picked up and shipped on his recent trip to France.

Additional examples of both Paul and Martine's art may be found at <http://freespirit1.homestead.com/index.html>.



# RONSON SILVER RARITIES

By Joe Roseman

As those who know me know, I collect Ronson table lighters in silver plate, sterling, pewter and chrome. I would like to share three of them that are not in the Ronson books. The first one was found by Ed Urlik and so he felt entitled to give it a name, since it was marked "Ronson". Because of the overall Eiffel-Tower like appearance, he named it a "Nouveau". Subsequently other examples of this lighter have surfaced, but it continues to be a difficult one to find.



FIGURE #1 "NOUVEAU"

The second one I named myself because I have never seen another one like it. It is also marked "Ronson" on the Decanter-like mechanism, and I have named this model the "Lenox". It too is in silver plate.

The final photo shows a silver plate lighter also marked "Ronson" and this time its name is marked on the bottom as with other Ronsons of this variety. The mark reads "Claridge", and I have not seen another similar one either.

I hope other Ronson collectors will enjoy seeing these lighters. It seems that there is no end to the many different kinds of lighters manufactured by Ronson. Good luck with your collecting!



FIGURE #2 "LENOX"



FIGURE #3 "CLARIDGE"

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## THE BOOK CORNER BY BENRAPAPORT

I have a friend in Germany who writes and speaks relatively good English. He, like I, has a tobacco book business, and stocks lots of lighter and fire-steel books for sale... of course, all in German with a few imported titles in English.

If any OTLS'ers are looking for foreign-language literature on lighters, Rainer Immensack is their best source: [privat@rikom.net](mailto:privat@rikom.net)

*CORDIALLY, BEN*

## CLASSIFIED ADS

### FOR SALE OR TRADE

FOR SALE: HUGE (13" tall) Frame Oil Filter Electric Lighter. It is in the shape of an oil filter and is orange and black. Since I have tried to sell this before, I will now take ANY reasonable offer, plus postage. I do not have room for such a big lighter! Judith Sanders (903)763-2795 or [otls@suddenlink.net](mailto:otls@suddenlink.net) (Digital photo available upon request.)

**COPIES FOR SALE:** 1954 Lighter Repair Manual, Ronson Catalogs 1914-1992, AMW Catalogs 1924-27 Computer Database 1,091 known Ronson Lighters - Email for list/prices. Lynn Baker [WhiteRiverWoodturning@yahoo.com](mailto:WhiteRiverWoodturning@yahoo.com) (See New Member list and Welcome back Lynn & Pearl Baker)

**FOR SALE:** Zippo with color photo of Richard Nixon, plus his signature. It is a 1995, Mint. I bought it at the convention buy when I got home I discovered I already had one! Will resell for \$50 (which is less than I paid in Cleveland)! Judith Sanders (903)763-2795 or [otls@suddenlink.net](mailto:otls@suddenlink.net) (Digital photo available upon request)

### **2009 CONVENTION LIGHTERS**

FOR SALE: I have a couple of the 2009 Convention Lighters left. If you want to buy one, please send \$37 ea, plus \$2 S&H (overseas add \$3 for S&H). Send to

Tom Jones, Lighter Chairman  
76 Alley Lane  
Climax Springs, MO 65324  
Phone: (573)345-4241

Back issues of the OTLS newsletter are available. Issues from 1984 thru 2000 are \$2.00 each plus postage. Articles from 2001 to the present are \$3.00 each. All proceeds go to the club general fund. Most are brand new and not copies and there are some fantastic articles/pictures. Contact Greg Ryman at [GregRyman872@msn.com](mailto:GregRyman872@msn.com) or (903)593-4413

**FOR SALE:** Red Kamel Figural Cigar Lighter Camel Cigarettes c1916 Email Ira at [vintageltr@aol.com](mailto:vintageltr@aol.com) or phone 201-797-6595

### FOR SALE OR TRADE

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](http://www.ronsonrepair.com/otls) or email me with questions at [rpadams357@hotmail.com](mailto:rpadams357@hotmail.com). Please include a description of the lighter, make, model and problem, and a small picture if possible. Thanks, Bob Adams

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](mailto:otls@suddenlink.net)

**Direct From Author** - Signed copies of "Handbook Of Vintage Lighters" & "The Golden Age Of Cigarette Lighters". 20% off for OTLS members. Email Ira Pilosof at [vintageltr@aol.com](mailto:vintageltr@aol.com) or call 201-797-6595

I can repair Zippo Cam Springs. Also repair Trench Art lighters. Email [pyrotjp@velocity.net](mailto:pyrotjp@velocity.net) or write to Tom Prylinski

I am liquidating my entire 35 year collection of lighters and smoking paraphernalia with the assistance Mr. Thor Konwin of Branford House Antiques here in Vermont. My primary focuses were Ronson, especially figural strikers and touch-tips; Flaminare; Thorens; Evans, Marathon; Beckwith; Lectrolite; IMCO; Dunhill; MIOJ: cigar store lighters; ball shapes, gun shapes, figurals; electriclighters; I liked anything unusual or bizarre or fun: print advertising, smoking stands, parts kits, fluid cans, advertising cases, cigarette and cigar holders and cases, even boxed and

### FOR SALE OR TRADE

packed cigarettes themselves. Thor has added two other tobacciana collections and is cataloging everything which amounts to over 1.000 items, in preparation for a physical preview offering just before an online offering, at the end of September. Here is that information:

The preview party with refreshments and an early buying opportunity will be Friday afternoon, September 25th, 2009, 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm and Saturday September 26th, 2009 10:00 am to 5:00 pm at Branford House Antiques, 6691 US Route 7, Brandon, Vermont 05733. No items will be sold before Friday at 4:00 pm and the entire collection will be posted for sale for a limited time at [BranfordHouseAntiques.com](http://BranfordHouseAntiques.com) on Sunday, September 27th, 2009 at 10:00 am. Call (802) 483-2971 or email [thorkonwin@aol.com](mailto:thorkonwin@aol.com) for more information or check out **The Vintage Tobacco Shop** at [www.branfordhouse-antiques.com](http://www.branfordhouse-antiques.com) (This is the collection of John Hale)

### WANTED:

Wanted: lighters with a liquor bottle encased in lucite. unusual Occupied Japan. figural trench, briar pipes, match safes and matchbook holders. Also interested in buying collections of lighters and pipes. call Guy at 310-215-1951 or email: [btrade@ca.rr.com](mailto:btrade@ca.rr.com)

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](mailto:hengilinov@gmail.com)

**Wanted:** Any Valentine lighters you might have. Call Nancy Lloyd (336)724-0821 or email [nlloyd@triad.rr.com](mailto:nlloyd@triad.rr.com)

## GLLC Fall Get-Together

WE ARE HAVING A FALL GET-TOGETHER ON NOVEMBER 6 AND 7, 2009 IN COOPERSVILLE, MICHIGAN. THE RODEWAY INN IN COOPERSVILLE WILL BE HOLDING A BLOCK OF ROOMS FOR US FROM NOVEMBER 5 THROUGH NOVEMBER 8. THEIR ROOM RATE IS \$60 PER NIGHT. WHEN YOU CALL TO MAKE RESERVATIONS, JUST MENTION THAT YOU'RE WITH THE GREAT LAKES LIGHTER CLUB. THE RODEWAY INN IS LOCATED AT 1040 O'MALLEY DRIVE; THEIR PHONE NUMBER IS 616-837-8100

THE FALL GET-TOGETHER WILL BE HELD AT THE VFW HALL ON 511 N. 68TH STREET IN COOPERSVILLE. THE VFW HALL IS LESS THAN ½ MILE FROM THE MOTEL. THE SHOW WILL BE FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, FROM 8 AM TO 5 PM; AND SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, AT 8 AM AND WILL CLOSE WITH AN AUCTION. THE VFW WILL FIX A LUNCH AND DINNER AT A VERY REASONABLE RATE AND THEIR FOOD IS VERY GOOD. THERE WILL BE COFFEE AND DONUTS SERVED DAILY.

THERE WILL BE NO CHARGE FOR A MEMBER TO HAVE A TABLE. PLEASE CONTACT BILL KOLK AT 616-997-6222 OR [GLLC@CHARTER.NET](mailto:GLLC@CHARTER.NET) ASAP IF YOU WANT TABLES. IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO DONATE FOR OUR AUCTION, PLEASE BRING IT ALONG. IT WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED AND WILL HELP PAY THE CLUBS' EXPENSES FOR THIS GET-TOGETHER.

### *In Loving Memory of Betty Phillips*

We were notified recently that our dear friend Betty Phillips passed away, after a long fight against cancer. Pat Grandy, of Zippo Manufacturing said Betty has worked at Zippo for over 44 years. And after her retirement continued to work part time in the archives.

A lot of us have known Betty for many years and I know we all will miss her. Pat Grandy said "We will miss her great spirit, positive attitude and contagious laugh."

**NEXT ISSUE November 2009.  
SEND ADS BY October 20, 2009.**



On The LIGHTER Side  
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